

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 1

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Quotable

"A Book of Verses underneath the Bough, A Jug of Wine, a Loaf of Bread – and Thou Beside me singing in the Wilderness— Oh, Wilderness were Paradise enow!"

-Omar Khayyam,
trans. Fitzgerald

What's On

Registration

9-4, Blue Parlor

Opening Banquet

6:00, Dining Hall

Opening Remarks

7:30, Theater

Banquet Menu

Summer salad w/melons and Brie; vegetable paella or New York sirloin with garlic & herb roasted potatoes; balsamic roasted beets and slow-roasted tomatoes; chocolate banana bread pudding.

Weather

Today:

AM showers,
82/66.

Tomorrow:

T-storms, 76/67.

Thursday:

Scattered storms,
81/63.

It was the natural splendor of this small plateau amid the Green Mountains that, in 1866, prompted Joseph Battell to purchase the farmhouse on the current site of the Inn. The pleasure of good company has brought people here since the 1870's, when Battell erected the Inn and the neighboring cottages and invited friends to summer here. And the sublime satisfaction of careful study is why, since 1920, teachers and scholars have congregated at this school of English. Those who make the pilgrimage here can partake of all three of these joys – the life of the mind among kindred spirits in this spectacular setting. Have a glorious summer. Welcome to Bread Loaf in Vermont.

Great Expectations on a Magic Mountain

Once you've officially registered for the summer in the Blue Parlor (in the rear west corner of the Inn) and marked your hometown with a pushpin on the map in the back hallway, you're free to unpack, explore the campus, seek out old friends, and meet new ones. However you spend your afternoon, come back to the Inn for the Opening Banquet tonight at 6, after which everyone will adjourn to the Burgess Meredith Little Theater for the official opening of the 87th session of the Bread Loaf School of English. Director Jim Maddox and Middlebury Vice President of Academic Affairs Alison Byerly will welcome you to Vermont, introduce this year's faculty and Acting Ensemble, and fill you in on the past year's goings-on and the upcoming summer's big events. Refreshments will follow in the Barn.

Inn Control

Bread Loaf stalwarts Edward and Victoria Brown return as Innkeepers once again – and, assisted by Peter Newton, MacNair Randall, Ana Silva, and Joy MacVey, they'll run Bread Loaf's nerve center, the Front Desk. Today, one of them welcomed you, handed you this publication, and pointed you in the right direction. All summer long, they'll cash your checks, route incoming calls, sell Cokes and candy, sort and send mail, provide refuge to lost objects until they become found, answer any and all miscellaneous questions, and generally keep their eyes open, ears to the ground, and fingers on Bread Loaf's pulse.

New students think that Elaine Lathrop, Sandy LeGault, and the rest of the staff of the Bread Loaf Office are super-intelligent, all-powerful beings capable of answering every question and willing to offer help and encouragement at every turn. Returning students *know* they are. You can find Elaine, Lexa DeCourval, and Susan Holcomb in the main Bread Loaf office in the rear of the Inn if you need to change course selections, set up appointments with the Directors, or use the School's fax machine (for a nominal fee). In the Inn Seminar Room (just out the back door of the Inn), Judy Jessup and Sandy can answer your questions about fellowships, transferring credits, or letters of recommendation. About the only things beyond their powers are altering the fickle Vermont weather and halting time to allow you to meet that looming essay deadline.

Director-y Assistants

Kurt Broderson, Jen Hansum, and Christie Beveridge are this summer's Assistants to the Director. They'll show the Friday night films, dispense refreshments at receptions and Barn dances, enforce the 11 p.m. noise ordinance, and generally help the summer run smoothly. Any appearance of ubiquity and/or omniscience on their part should come as no surprise, as superhuman feats are casually stipulated in their contracts. That, however, shouldn't stop you from saying "thanks" now and again for their efforts.

Mail Hegemony

The objective reality is that there just aren't enough post office boxes to go around, so expect to share a box with another student. That unexpected issue of *Granta* is, therefore, not a gift from the Mail Fairy. It probably belongs to your box buddy. Put it back.

Any hegemonic relationship depends on the dominant party providing the proletariat with goods and services in exchange for which the disempowered willingly submit to the existing authority. Accordingly, in exchange for the minor inconvenience of making you share a post office box, the Front Desk Post Officers will gladly sell you stamps, ship packages, and sort incoming mail by lunchtime. Sounds like a fair trade to me, although some critics might label me the puppet of a soulless, authoritarian regime for saying so.

Hole-in-the-Wall Mart

The Bookstore (located in the Annex basement) stocks course texts, office supplies, health & beauty products, snacks, phone cards, and all manner of Bread Loaf paraphernalia proclaiming "I'm an English geek who spends summers at reading camp, and I don't care who knows it!" to all who behold you.

Ed Brown and the Front Desk staff double as your Book-Keepers this summer. They'll open the store this afternoon from 1-4 and tomorrow from 8:30-12:30 and 2-5. After then, the hours will be 8:30-12:30 weekdays. For the remainder of this week, please limit your book purchases to texts for classes in which you are enrolled. (This is for your own good; it's easy, in these heady first days of summer, to grab *The Golden Bowl* for a little pleasure reading, forgetting that the impending avalanche of coursework, paper research, BreadNet forums, and teacher conferences will inevitably turn James's novel into an \$11 doorstep/high-density insect swatter/free weight.)

A Lesson Before Dining

You'll see the best minds of your generation hysterical (in Week 5, when the paper crunch hits) and naked (at the post-dance skinny dips), but *never* starving; Allen Ginsberg clearly never enjoyed the culinary marvels of Chef Jim Logan. He and his staff subscribe to the concept of "food for thought" and have logically concluded that only truly stellar food will beget the stellar thoughts for which Bread Loaf students are known.

Weekday meals are sit-down affairs, during which you will be served by a member of our crack student waitstaff. (You can even *join* this crack waitstaff; talk to Elaine if you're interested in this assignment, which brings with it free room and board.) Breakfast begins promptly at 7:30, lunch at 12:45, and dinner at 6:00. Your waiter will make every effort to make mealtimes enjoyable, but remember that he or she has classes to attend and papers to write, just as you do – so arrive on time and don't linger too long over that last cup of coffee. Headwaiters Shannon Hipp and Steve Suomi vow that they will not hesitate to utilize overt mockery or inventive and painful uses of the salad tongs to propel recalcitrant diners out the door.

Much Ado About Muffins

If you miss the aforementioned meal times, head to the Barn, where the Dining Hall staff kindly sets out pastries after breakfast. You'll almost always find steaming urns of coffee there too, but if they've been sucked dry of every last drop of their sweet, sweet, precious, caffeinated nectar, remember that you can turn to the Barn vending machines at any hour for a Coke, a Red Bull, a Frappuccino, or any of their other various combinations of high-fructose corn syrup, xanthan gum, and Red Dye #4.

Our Library Is Dukedom Large Enough

The Davison Library houses a relatively thorough collection of literature and all the reserve texts for every Bread Loaf course; anything else from Middlebury's extensive library holdings can easily be summoned from campus with a few keystrokes. Chris Brady and the rest of this summer's Davison staff can minister to your every bibliotechnical need.

The ground floor's comfortable seating and (on cold days) crackling fire make it a good spot for curling up with Annie Proulx or Toni Kushner (not the authors themselves, for heaven's sake – what kind of a place do you think this is?). Typing is not allowed downstairs, so lug your laptop up to the second floor, where you can word-process and e-mail to your heart's content while basking in the intellectual emanations of Michael Armstrong's Fortress of Solitude.

"Apple Cellar" Really Dell-icious

Tucked beneath the north end of the Library is the Apple Cellar, whose rustic name conceals its cutting-edge technology and obscures the fact that most of its machines are PCs. Caroline Eisner and her assistants will be available to answer questions from "How do I use BreadNet?" to "Why won't this %*\$&#@ computer read my disk?" Food, drink, and computer gaming are forbidden in the Apple Cellar, and paying for your laser printing is a must – our honor system presumes an Odyssean, rather than Falstaffian, definition of "honor."

The Spot to Get Out Damned Spots

The small white hut between Larch and the Barn houses Bread Loaf's laundry facilities. Washing and drying cost \$1.25 each, and the Front Desk can usually supply you with quarters. Fair warning: as the summer progresses, more and more dryers will ingest your coins, rattle and hum convincingly, yet effect no discernible change upon your garments in return. Although physical aggression might seem a tempting and potentially cathartic option at that point, please respond instead to such adversity with the withering sarcasm or choice epithets befitting a School of English student.

Patients Must Not Minister to Themselves

Instead, they should stagger, hobble, or limp across Route 125 to the Cornwall Clinic (named after the nearby town and **not**, I assure you, after the *King Lear* eye-gouger). There, Bread Loaf RN's Tori Hovde and Sally Carver can provide care for most routine medical issues, including writer's cramp and paper cuts. (Writer's block, however, is a condition beyond even their formidable talents and may necessitate "alternative medicine" in the form of a Frost Trail circuit or a salubrious outing to the Waybury.) The clinic is open 8-2 weekdays.

In an emergency, always call an ambulance first (911), then alert the Front Desk. For an after-hours emergency, call the ambulance, then extension 2713 (Ed & Victoria) or 9-388-7703 (Jim Maddox).

Accept Your Lot in Life

After you've settled in, make sure you move your vehicle to the large lot in front of the Barn (unless you live at Gilmore or Tamarack, in which case you're allowed to park at your dorm). You should not, can not, must not, *shall* not park along Route 125 – besides, your car will be so much happier in the lot amongst its brethren than it would be alongside the main road, where it would constantly worry about being sideswiped by a logging truck or stampeded by rampaging moose. The copious signs should make it equally clear that parking behind the Inn is also a no-no; doing so obstructs emergency vehicles and food delivery trucks.

The Vermont State Police invariably see the arrival of three hundred out-of-state visitors who don't know about the sudden drop in the speed limit through Ripton as a financial windfall, so don't take the hairpin turns of 125 at hair-raising speeds.

To An Athlete Dying To Play

A Bread Loaf summer brings with it myriad athletic opportunities, and if the rain doesn't relent, 2006 may witness the introduction of novel athletic pursuits such as meadow swimming, aqua-tennis, and cross-country water polo. Ultimate Frisbee, thankfully, scoffs at meteorological adversity and will take place tomorrow after dinner in the meadow. If you're interested in rallying the masses for soccer or softball or volleyball or anything else, just notify the *Crumb* with a prospective gathering time and place.

Once the two somewhat rustic tennis courts (adjacent to the Library) dry out, expect them to be patrolled regularly by the not-at-all-rustic David Huddle. Signups for Wimbleloaf, our not-so-Grand Slam tournament, should appear next week.

If you're a jogger, a walker, a hiker, or a biker, you'll no doubt take advantage of the abundance of paths and roads around Bread Loaf. Some are paved, some are less traveled, and perhaps even a few are still lying in leaves no step has trodden black.

For slightly tonier facilities, venture down to Middlebury's field house (indoor track, fitness center, basketball courts, and a swimming pool larger than John's Pond but lamentably tadpole-free). Simply brandish your ID for admittance.

Summer student memberships to Middlebury's golf course are yours for the unbelievable price of \$100, and it's never too early to start practicing for the traditional end-of-summer Scramble tournament.

It's Easy Being Green

The crystal-clear instructions on the recycling containers located throughout campus are, collectively, just about the only "text" you'll encounter this summer in which **no** embedded meanings, ironic significances, or coded dialectics can be plausibly discerned. Simply put glass in the containers marked "glass," paper in those marked "paper," and so forth. Little things help, too. Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms. Use a travel mug or Nalgene bottle instead of disposable cup after disposable cup. And deposit spent batteries at the Front Desk, where they will receive a brief eulogy and then an environmentally sound disposal.

The Outside World, Part I: Contacting It

Our remote location means that you'll hear *Song of Myself* reverberating through the trees more often than *Song of My Cell Phone*. Since the only way to acquire some signal bars is to head down the mountain, you might want to pick up a phone card at the Bookstore.

Campus phone directories should be located near each dorm phone. Note that the Front Desk's extension is 2700; dialing 0 will connect you to the main College switchboard, where no one will understand your questions about Suppressed Desires or Old Piney. To get an outside line, simply dial 9. If you find your dorm phone being unkindly monopolized, use the pay phone in the Inn lobby. (Alas, the phone booth outside the laundry room is out of order and now serves as only a visual curiosity.)

The Bread Loaf switchboard will relay incoming calls to dorm phones until 11 each evening, but you can place an outgoing call at any time. Outsiders can dial dorm phones directly at any hour by adding your floor's four-digit extension to (802)-443. Please be mindful of your hallmates, though; remember that untangling *Light in August* is difficult enough without hearing your conversation with Grandma Frances from down the hall, and take messages unto others as you would have them take yours unto you.

The Outside World, Part II: Visiting It

Those who prefer not to negotiate the curves of 125 on their own can hitch a ride to Middlebury on the Front Desk's van, which leaves each weekday afternoon at 1:45 from the front of the Inn and returns by 4:30. There's only space for seven aboard, so it's best to reserve a spot on the sign-up sheet posted daily at the Front Desk.

The Outside World, Part III: News from It

There are those among us who, finding the *Crumb*'s extremely local focus and meager one-color presentation woefully insufficient, choose to supplement their news with the *New York Times*. *Times* subscribers can pick up their copies at the Front Desk starting tomorrow, but should be warned that the *Crumb* Bum plans to lurk in the Inn lobby, note any such persons, then spread scurrilous and blissfully unfounded gossip about them in future *Crumbs* for their perceived ingratitude.

Burning Issues

Vermont state law prohibits smoking in *all* public buildings (including our dormitories), and Bread Loaf prohibits smoking on the front porch of the Inn, as the smoke tends to waft inside to others' discomfort. If you opt to smoke elsewhere, please exterminate all smoking material in the sand pails placed around campus for that purpose. The campus smoke detectors are easily triggered; if your room alarm goes off, air out the room and fan the smoke or hairspray away from the alarm. Chirping, buzzing, or twittering smoke detectors are pleading for a new battery, which the Front Desk can provide. Chirping, buzzing, or twittering animals are perfectly normal for Vermont, and under no circumstances should attempts be made to equip *them* with new batteries.

Bread Loaf's electrical system still retains its 19th-century fragility; accordingly, modern marvels such as coffee makers, microwaves, and hair dryers are forbidden in student rooms, as they overburden the circuits and increase the risk of fire. (Happily, the bathrooms are wired to handle hair dryers.) Contraband items have been known to disappear suddenly from their dormitories, later to be quietly absorbed by the local citizenry at Trader Jim's End-of-Summer Yard Sale.

A Kids' Summer's Nice Dream

"Croutons" is Bread Loaf's day camp for the under ten crew – but that's not to say that the kids spend their days hammering out papers on "Representation/Reality: The Aesthetics of Liminality in *Harold and the Purple Crayon*." Instead, the Mary Johnson Children's Center offers a lively and enriching program at the Ripton Elementary School on Lincoln Road. Those in need of further info can call the Center at 388-2853.

Inn Security

Like Grover's Corners or Winesburg, Ohio, Bread Loaf is the kind of place where you don't need to lock your door behind you. (Fortunately, our stage manager is decidedly less intrusive and our populace less overrun with grotesques.) Your room can always be locked from the inside, but if that doesn't soothe your soul, you can still obtain a room key from the Front Desk. If you have a roommate, you must show up together in order to receive keys. Any resulting lock-outs, however accidental, will incur a \$25 fee.

Hall's Well That Tens Well

Nothing builds dorm spirit like brainstorming submissions for the *Crumb*'s weekly Top Ten list, a Bread Loaf tradition that predates Letterman's feeble imitation (topping the 1924 list of "Top Ten Things Not To Say When Perambulating Across The Meadow With Your Beau" was "What say we end *your* Age of Innocence?").

This summer's first category, decrees the *Crumb* Bum, will be the **Top Ten Things You Really Didn't Need to Bring to Bread Loaf**. Submit your most humorous ideas to Jon Freeman via BreadNet or campus mail by Friday at 10:00 a.m. The best ten (or so) entries will be featured in that day's issue.

Can the Boys of Barn East, champions the past two summers, make it a three-peat? Will the Men of Annex use their superior numbers and nightly porch gatherings to reclaim the title? Will denizens of other dorms or other variously affiliated groups gather together, give themselves a catchy, preferably alliterative name (Guys of Gilmore, Ladies of Larch, etc.), and enter the fray? Can the Waitstaff, should they choose to compete once again, come up with a better team name than "Waitstaff"?

Crumb, Live With Me, And Be My Loaf

The *Crumb* is your daily source of news, announcements, a notoriously undependable weather forecast, the dinner menu, and dozens of obscure literary allusions and strained puns. You can grab your hot-off-the-press (warm-from-the-copier, really) edition around noon each weekday at the Front Desk or outside the Dining Hall entrance.

The *CyberCrumb*, an electronic version of this publication, is posted each morning in the CyberBarn for folks at the other four campuses and alumni suffering from annual pangs of nostalgia.

Send your news, requests for rides to the airport, or any other announcements of note to *Crumb* Bum Jon Freeman's mailbox (actual or cyber-) by 11 a.m. for inclusion in that day's issue. Take care not to get him confused with Professor Jonathan Freedman; the *Crumb* Bum's advice about your "Fictions of Finance" paper topic will almost assuredly prove suspect, and the professor's interest in your moose sighting will likely fail to generate the campuswide publicity for which you had hoped.

Bread Loaf Hours Summer 2006

Front Desk (ext. 2700)

M-Sat 8 a.m.-11 p.m.

Sun 9 a.m.-11 p.m.

Bookstore (ext. 2759)

M-F 8:30-12:30

Bread Loaf Office

(ext. 5418)

M-F 8-12:15, 1:30-5

Cornwall Clinic (ext. 2714)

M-F 8:00-2:00

Apple Cellar (ext. 2741)

M-F 8:30-12:30, 1:30-5:45, 7-12

Sat 9:30-12:25, 1:30-5:45, 7-9:30

Sun 9:30-12:25, 1:30-5:45, 7-12

Dining Hall

Weekdays

Breakfast 7:30

Lunch 12:45

Dinner 6:00

Weekends

Breakfast 8-9

Lunch 12:30-1:15

Dinner 6-6:45

Main Library (ext. 2000)

M-Th 7:30 a.m.-midnight

Fri 7:30 a.m.-11 p.m.

Sat. 9 a.m.-11 p.m.

Sun 9 a.m.-midnight

Field House

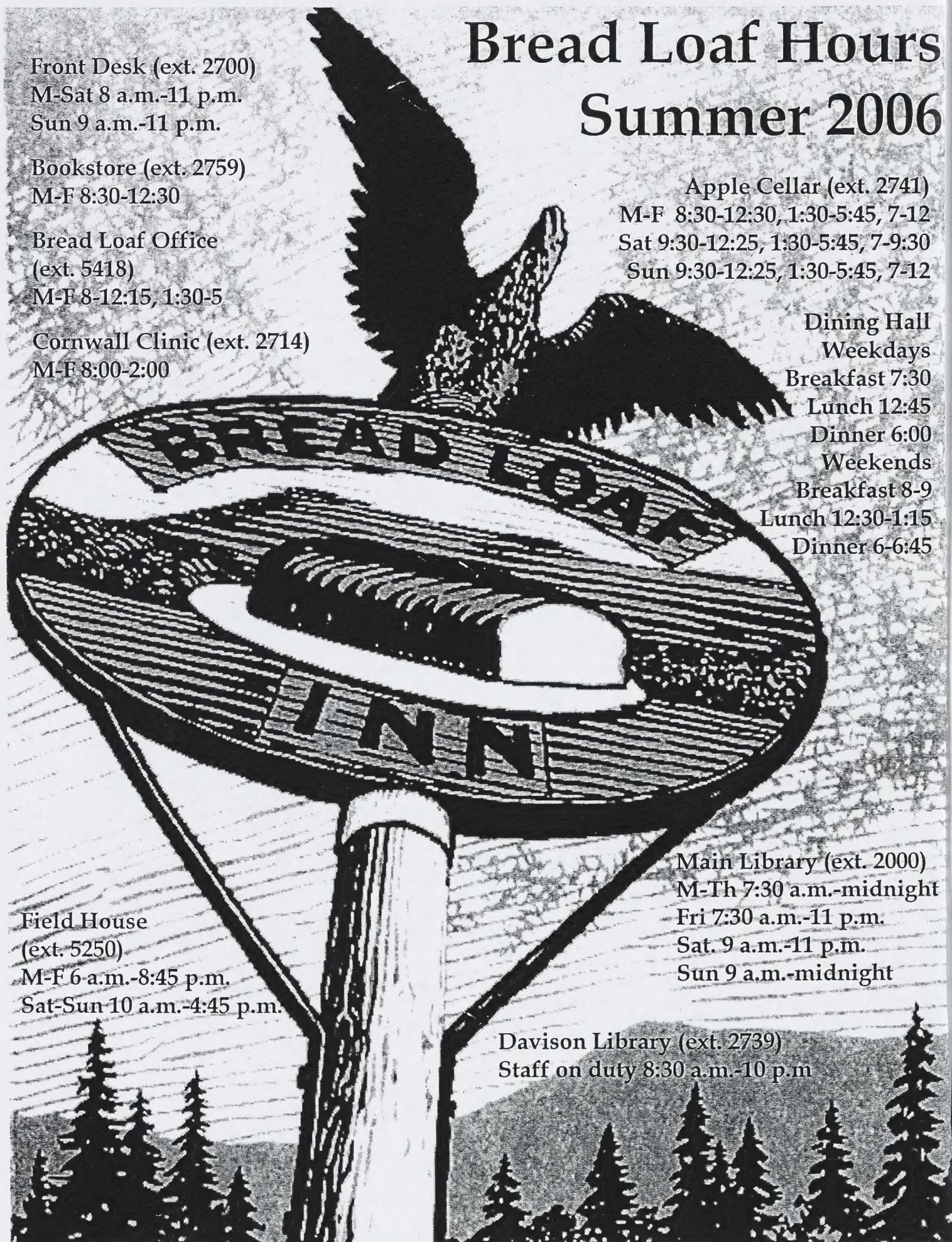
(ext. 5250)

M-F 6 a.m.-8:45 p.m.

Sat-Sun 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

Davison Library (ext. 2739)

Staff on duty 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m.



The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 2

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Trivia

Which object at Bread Loaf, central to the school's daily operation, got here because students stole it from nearby Lincoln?

What's On

Van Run
1:45, Front Desk

New Student Reception
5:00, Barn

Ultimate Frisbee
7:00, Field

Auditions for Big Love & Mud
7:00, Theater

Menu

Fried chicken with buttermilk-scallion mashed potatoes or mushroom risotto cake; zucchini with summer batonets and basil; blueberry pie for dessert.

Weather

The Internet is down, so instead of weather.com, you get the *Crumb* Bum's "Inspired Guess" Forecast:

Today:

Raining right now. Later, maybe not.

Tonight:

Dark, continuing through the night; gradual lightening towards morning.

Tomorrow:

Plague of frogs, for all I know.

"News at 5:00" Gets Great Reception on Mountain

Students new to Bread Loaf or just new to the Vermont campus (a.k.a. "The Mother Ship") are cordially invited to a welcome reception at 5:00 this afternoon in the Barn. There, you'll be able to mingle with each other, meet director Jim Maddox and other members of the Bread Loaf support staff, and nibble on some light refreshments. Jim and the staff are eager to get to know you better and, to avoid seeming dull or predictable, pledge to spend the hours leading up to the reception thinking up conversational gambits other than the old chestnuts "Where are you from?" and "What classes are you taking?"

MacVey has *Big Love* for Student Actors; Many Others Get to Play in *Mud*

Student and faculty participation in the summer's major theatrical productions is a Bread Loaf tradition, but never in recent memory has Director Alan MacVey had so many roles to distribute among eager actors and actresses – an astonishing twenty-one parts in Charles Mee's *Big Love* and Maria Irene Fornes's *Mud* are available. **Come to the Theater tonight at 7 to audition for either of these two plays; naturally, everyone is encouraged to audition regardless of theatrical experience.** To audition for *Big Love*, you simply need to read a poem of your choosing (it doesn't have to be memorized, but it should be about a minute long); for *Mud*, all you have to do is show up and read the excerpt given to you at that time.

The roles are many and varied indeed – a woman struggling to move out of poverty, a fairly macho guy, sixteen brides and grooms – although only at Bread Loaf would it be fair to say that playing the role in *Mud* of a "young man without any education" might constitute a bigger stretch than playing the 18-30-year-old man in *Big Love* who has a keen interest in his Barbie collection.

If you're more the tech type, someone who'd prefer to be behind the spotlight rather than in it, you can come to the Theater during auditions tonight or just stop by the Theater office anytime.

The plays are invariably at the epicenter of any Bread Loaf summer – veteran students tend to identify bygone years as "the year of *Arcadia*," "the summer they did *Much Ado*," and so on – so we hope that you'll consider getting involved in what promise to be two memorable productions.

Head to Central Park

Thankfully, Joseph Battell's blanket prohibition on cars at Bread Loaf has given way to a more permissive attitude, but we still retain a fragment of our founding father's vehicular intolerance by insisting that no cars ever park along Route 125. Please move your ride to the large lot in front of the Barn; anyone who has seen *Cars* can take solace in imagining that all the vehicles will, once parked together in the lot, begin their own communal bonding, perhaps start some lifelong friendships, and – who knows? – even fall in love. (Just remember *Romeo and Juliet* in case you despair at having to park your Beetle next to a Humvee.)

Seniors Celebrate the Joy of '06

For Bread Loaf seniors, tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow only creeps in its petty pace until 5:00, when they'll all rush happily down Route 125 to Earthworm Manor, where Jim Maddox and the faculty will welcome them with an informal reception. (Unless it's raining, that is, in which case the whole shebang moves to Treman Cottage, just a quick dash across 125 from Cherry and the Annex.) It's somewhat odd that this reception is, for many of this year's Vermont seniors, the first time they'll meet each other, as the number of Bread Loaf campuses means that students who begin the same year often pass like ships in the night until meeting here as seniors. (Legend has it that this is why the Senior Prom is now such a low-key affair; there were just too many seniors at this opening reception who worried that everyone else already had a prom date and clumsily tried to work "Hi, my name is" and "Would you like to go to the Prom with me?" into the same conversation.)

Joe Battell's Revenge

Perhaps it's just a coincidence that this morning's Internet outage comes the day after Jim Maddox trumpeted the extent to which Bread Loaf, unlike Joseph Battell, embraces modern technology – still, it's worth checking Battell's portrait in the Blue Parlor for just the tiniest hint of a smirk. No word on when access will be restored, unfortunately.

Floppy Disc

The fact that the playing field is bound to be a little soggy shouldn't deter determined Ultimate Frisbee players from congregating in the field behind Birch and Maple tonight after dinner (about 7) for a friendly game or two. After all, wet grass both makes it less painful to dive after errant throws and more likely that the spray of water your dive will throw up will land you on the nightly *SportsCenter Bread Loaf* highlight reel.

Go Gently Into That Good Night

Nightly gatherings on the porches of the Annex, or of Larch, are a treasured Bread Loaf tradition, but raging too loudly against the dying of the light, or too long past the dying of the light, can annoy students who'd prefer a quiet studying atmosphere. Therefore, after 11:00 p.m., socializers should either scatter to the four winds or repair to the Barn to continue their revelry.

Cache of Open Jobs Means Cash for You

Plenty of work-study positions (each of which covers the cost of your room and board) are still available, and each carries with it the distinct possibility of being seen as a kind of god. Joining the close-knit Waitstaff immediately makes you The Coffee-Bearer. Becoming an Apple Cellar computer assistant almost certainly means that someone will forever remember you as The Person Who Found My Milton Essay After the Computer Crashed. And working as the Bread Loaf office assistant increases the likelihood that you'll return to your school or other place of employment and quickly become known only as He (or She) Who Knows How to Un-Jam the Hopelessly Jammed Copier. See Elaine in the Office if you like the thought of being so idolized and/or the accompanying financial benefits.

Square Dance Reels 'Em In

Everyone has a great time at the annual Square Dance – students, families, kids, and even the professors (as long as they don't stop do-se-doing to ponder a possible thematic connection between *Don Quixote* and the "Spanish Caballero" dance). If you don't know your allemande left from your promenade right, caller Tom Bahre will patiently put you through your paces – years of Bread Loaf visits have clearly taught him not to expect a bunch of English teachers to understand the finer points of the Birdie in the Cage.

Friday You Can Fill Up, See More Hoffman

Head over to the Barn on Friday at 9 for some free popcorn and a showing of *Capote*, featuring Oscar-winner Philip Seymour Hoffman in the title role and Catherine Keener in a show-stealing turn as Harper Lee. In the film, Truman Capote travels to a remote Kansas backwater and uses a recent gruesome multiple murder as the basis of his masterpiece, *In Cold Blood*. Seems to me that Capote didn't so much ask the Muse to brush lightly against his ear as he waited for her to clobber him over the head with a two-by-four; I mean, Paul Muldoon's been traveling to a remote Vermont backwater for a bunch of years now, and all it took for him to produce "News Headlines from the Homer Noble Farm" was watching a chipmunk and a firefly and some other harmless little woodland creatures.

Voices of the Shuttle

You literary types can call it what you will – "a central trope of the rural/urban dialectic," "an interrogation of societally induced mass consumerism," "an attempt to decode the phenomena of location and dislocation." It's just a van run to Middlebury, for crying out loud, in the event that you need to buy stuff or just want to head into town. Reserve your seat at the Front Desk (the van only seats six). Plan to depart around 1:45 and return by 4:30.

Front Desk Loves Not Times Fools

The Front Desk points out that lots of people who ordered subscriptions to *The New York Times* have overlooked the fact that, in the opinion of many bespectacled economists, *paying* for said subscription is an integral step in the exchange of goods and services. (Translation: cough up the cash.)

And if you just can't do without the "Style" section or society page or stock market tables, none of which are a regular feature of the *Crumb*, you can still add your name at the Front Desk to the list of *Times* recipients.

If Money Was the Root of Some Evil

If you encountered serious obstacles or problems as you negotiated the financial aid process this summer, Susan Holcomb in the Bread Loaf office would like to hear about your experience. Please stop by and see her if you feel that your situation fits the above description.

Bookstore Knows No Borders; Expands Hours

Ed Brown announces that the Bookstore will be open this afternoon from 1:45-4:30, but only to accommodate the early-summer rush and not, as rumor has it, in an effort to compete with the Bordeses and Barnes & Nobles of the world. So the extended store hours are only in effect today, and no specialty coffees or oversized armchairs will ever be available. (On the plus side, there's not a Danielle Steel novel in sight.) So drop by this afternoon in case you still have course books to purchase or finally feel ready to commit to a particular Bread Loaf T-shirt design.

Ed also notes that the Bookstore does not sell wireless cards (there are simply too many different kinds that different computers require). If you're looking for one, get in touch with CSI Computer Specialists on Route 125 across from the A&W; their phone number is 388-1444.

Dance DJ's to Receive Record Payments

If the letters "ABBA" first bring to mind a rhyme scheme, then perhaps you're not the ideal candidate to DJ one of our Saturday night dances this summer. If, however, you're now quietly humming "Take a Chance on Me" to yourself and hoping the others at your table haven't noticed, you might be perfect for the job. It's a paying gig, too, and not a bad one at that. Bread Loaf has a certain number of CD's of various vintages to help you along, but it's probably best if you can supplement their collection with your own music library. Let one of the Director's Assistants (Kurt, Jen, or Christie) know if you're interested in helping out.

Try to Wring Out Answer to Trivia Question

You'll find a trivia question or some other kind of puzzle in the upper-left-hand corner of the front page of each day's *Crumb*, and a clue to the answer lurks somewhere in today's headlines. If you think you can name the object in question, drop a note in Jon Freeman's campus mailbox or e-mail him on BreadNet. I will reward those who answer correctly by printing their names in the next edition of the *Crumb*; whether those daily champions choose to supplement the news of their success with a lunchtime table-dance or a barbaric yawp is entirely up to them.

Totally Useless List Requires Your Participation

The smack-talking about who will reign supreme in this year's Top Ten competition has already begun, with the Boys of Barn East and the Waitstaff lodging the first Namath-esque guarantees of victory. (Smack-talk at Bread Loaf can be hard to spot at first; the generally friendly atmosphere as well as our tendency to use proper English grammar and words like "poststructuralist" in the smack talk saps the remarks of any real vitriol. Still, I know what I heard.)

If you'd like to join the fray with your dorm, floor, family, or friends, simply give yourselves a catchy team name and send your ideas for the **Top Ten Things You Really Didn't Need to Bring to Bread Loaf** to Jon Freeman by Friday at 10:00 a.m. The best submissions will be printed in that day's *Crumb*.

"Gooooooooallllll!!!" Only Counts as One Syllable

An anonymous missive to the *Crumb* suggests that we also publish any "World Cup haikus" community members might care to construct. (Would that we had erstwhile Front Desk staffer Kalli Federhofer in Vermont this summer; he'd undoubtedly produce a paean to his beloved sport that managed to be moving and witty while somehow incorporating vocabulary like "lacuna" and "epistemological.") Great idea, says the *Crumb* Bum; we'll print any worthy contributions, provided that they adhere to the traditional seventeen-syllable form and that your efforts in this direction do not distract you from more important intellectual endeavors, such as devising submissions for the Top Ten List.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 3

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Trivia

In which Shakespeare play does it rain the most (measured by the number of occurrences of "rain" in the text)?

What's On

Van Run
1:45, Front Desk

Senior Reception
5:00, Treman
Gilmore 9:00

Menu

Crispy pork loin
or mushroom
strudel with sun-
dried tomato
pesto; spaetzles;
braised red
cabbage;
chocolate cake
with white icing.

Weather

Today:
Thunderstorms,
76/63.

Tomorrow:
Scattered
storms, 73/57.

Saturday:
Mostly cloudy,
83/61.
(Mostly cloudy!
Mostly cloudy!
Rejoice!
Rejoice!)

Maddox: "My Lawn's a Goner; I'll Move Reception to Treman"

The wet conditions may make the lawn of Earthworm Manor friendly for, well, earthworms, but it'd hardly be a fun place for this afternoon's Senior/Faculty Reception, what with the warding-off of raindrops, sinking ankle-deep in the sodden turf, and so forth. So the affair will take place at 5:00 at Treman, whose large and covered porch will appeal to those whose appreciation of Bread Loaf's natural beauty does not extend as far as wanting to be out in it on days like this.

Tonight's Program: Ellen Degenerates

In his annual Opening Night addresses, Jim Maddox wisely argues for the redemption of Joseph Battell despite, not because of, his authorship of *Ellen, Or Whisperings of an Old Pine*. Tonight, you'll see why. It wouldn't be a Bread Loaf Thursday without a Gilmore reading; beginning at 9, there will be a bonfire, some adult beverages, and two very special readings. The first is the ceremonial and only mock-serious recitation of a passage from *Ellen*, the turgidity of which inevitably makes whatever the second reader, an esteemed faculty member, chooses to present seem inestimably lucid and trenchant in comparison.

To get to Gilmore, take the main driveway past the Barn and turn right at the bottom of the hill. Gilmore is about a half a mile up the road on your left; as it's the first building you'll see from the road, you really can't miss it. Bring a flashlight if you're walking and a contribution to defray the costs of the refreshments, which the Men of Gilmore supply with their own money.

Seniors Get Heads Up for Fri. Meeting

The Class of '06 will congregate once again tomorrow at 5, this time in the Blue Parlor. They'll have to do without the refreshments or the company of the faculty, however; there's important business to transact with graduation only a few short weeks away. While various Commencement-related items are being discussed, the Director's Assistants will circulate among the seniors, measuring head sizes. They will claim that this is merely to facilitate accurate cap-and-gown ordering, although my suspicions are raised by the fact that Jim is considering rejiggering the Bread Loaf application and asked Elaine to "run some numbers" cross-referencing skull sizes of past graduates with final grade-point averages.

Can't Have the Blues Without You

It's traditional at Bread Loaf Vermont for student writers to read from their work in the Blue Parlor on Sunday evenings, but for that to happen we need someone to coordinate signups, set out refreshments, make Dining Hall announcements, and the like. If you're interested in helping out, talk to any of the Director's Assistants.

The Truman Show

No, *that's* not the Friday night film. We tried it once, but everyone argued for the rest of the summer over what bit of academic jargon best described the phenomenon of watching a film in which people watch a character who gradually becomes aware that he is a character. (There was general agreement that the prefix *meta-* belonged somewhere in there, though.)

No, the Truman in question is the title character of *Capote*, which will be shown tomorrow night at 9 in the Barn. The Assistants will hand out free snacks.

Square Dance a Shellfish Indulgence

At some point during Saturday's Square Dance, Tom Bahre will tell you to "Dig for the oyster!" and "Dive for the clam!" The aspiring square dancer in me frets at having once again forgotten the difference between these two tasks, but I'm sure it'll come back to me. The cultural anthropologist in me (and I didn't know there was one in there until this very moment) is more curious about how such a pair of terms entered the lexicon of square dancing, which I have never particularly associated with mollusks of any kind. But Saturday night is no time for etymological surmise; you'll be too focused on the intricacies of "Barnacle Bill" and on slaking your thirst with libations from the Director's Assistants to think about anything else. Bring your ID to assure yourself of being served.

Local Residents Shuffle Fourth

Although it's doubtful that they did so just out of consideration for Bread Loaf, which does not take the 4th of July off, the altogether charming town of Brandon will hold its great Independence Day celebration on Saturday the 1st this year. There'll be food vendors, live entertainment, games, crafts, all culminating in Vermont's largest Independence Day parade at 1 p.m. If you go, make a point of visiting the Briggs Carriage Bookstore, one of the best in the area; you might also get a bite to eat at Café Provence or browse the only combination antique store/ice cream parlor of which this writer is aware. To get to Brandon, head south on Rt. 7 for about 12 miles.

Apartment Would Be Thing of Beauty to Joy Forever

Joy MacVey is desperate to find off-campus housing for her and her dog Max. Having to stay in a cage most of the day is no way to spend a summer. (We're talking about Max, not about Joy, who in no way feels imprisoned behind the Front Desk.) She's willing to pay rent; if you can give her any leads, please stop by and see her in the Inn.

Student Email Re: Gang of Musicians

First-year Bread Loafer Susan Fine submitted the following: "Petite violinist seeking other musicians for laid-back summer collaboration. Also enjoys sunshine, pony rides, & John Berryman's Dream Songs." You can email Susan at sfine@post.harvard.edu, leave her a note in her campus mailbox, or find her in Cherry 1.

Waitstaff Begins Cereal Killing Tomorrow at 8

They're mad as hell, and they're not going to take it any more. Those of you who believe that the 7:30 a.m. bell is your personal alarm clock, then float into breakfast well past 8 demanding your early-morning infusions of caffeine and Vermont maple syrup, will find the door summarily locked tomorrow morning at 8; adjust your body clock accordingly or be forced to subsist on whatever's laid out in the Barn around 8:30.

Muldoon Makes Tremendous Rackett

Although he indeed wields a mean racket on the Wimbleloaf courts, we're talking about *Don't Try This at Home*, the latest CD from Paul Muldoon's band, Rackett. And since you're not, in fact, at home, it would seem axiomatic that it's perfectly safe to pick up a copy of the disc (available at the Bookstore).

Jockeys Get Great Support for Brief Work

If you'd be interested in DJ'ing one of the Saturday night dances and making some pretty good scratch while so doing, talk to one of the Director's Assistants. And don't worry a bit if you know your taste isn't exactly New York-club cutting-edge; Bread Loafers evince a strange predilection for cheesy pop, tending to prefer Technotronic ("I Like to Move It") to pure techno.

Best Chord Deal You'll Ever Get

Whether you enjoy singing in front of an audience of hundreds (in, say, a college chorus), an audience of one (that guy you didn't see pull up next to you as you belted out Cher's "Believe" in the car the other day), or an audience of none (the great acoustics of your shower stall being the only concert hall you need), you might enjoy joining Bread Loaf's summer singing group, the Madrigalists. The name is misleading, since this summer's repertoire goes back no further than Gershwin and is heavily laden with 80's pop classics from the Cars, Todd Rundgren, Steve Perry, and others. The first rehearsal will be Monday at 5 in the Barn, and absolutely no experience is required to sing along.

Those Not in Lot in Lot of Trouble

For Chrysler's sake, how many times have we told you that you can't park your cars Honda road (Route 125)! It's hard to get an Acura count of how many people are breaking the rules, but even one person trying to Dodge the rules is too many. Heck, Middlebury doesn't even Lexus park the Front Desk van on 125. And it's not like we're asking you to take 'em to Saturn (or to Infiniti, for that matter), so quit giving me your Saab story and move your car to the parking lot outside the Barn. I've got nothing else to say, so I guess I'm Audi.

Ask Blair Which Projects Her Kids Like to Do

Sara Blair writes: "Although they are now far too large to hoist aloft in the dining hall, Ben and Miriam Blair Freedman are in need of occasional childcare of a Bread Loaf evening. Perks include festive snacks and unlimited opportunities to play SPUD in the dark." If interested, please contact Sara Blair or Jonathan Freedman.

Martial Plan

If you'd like to learn about the "soft-flowing, dynamic" Aikido style of self-defense (or if you already know the discipline and want to practice your form), a signup sheet for classes (tentatively scheduled for Tues./Thurs. mornings) has been posted outside the Dining Hall. Classes are free and open to everyone.

Trivia Question Rings a Bell for Few

Correct answers to yesterday's trivia question came pouring in from all quarters: Vermont students (John Becker, Deidre Cuffee-Gray, and David Miller), Oxford students (Andy Pederson and Micki McMillan), the Acting Ensemble (Elizabeth Bunch), and all three Director's Assistants (Kurt Broderson, Christie Beveridge, and Jen Hansum). Whether they knew the answer outright or spotted a clue in the headline "Try to Wring Out Answer to Trivia Question" isn't the point – it's that they knew that **the bell** was the object some intrepid Bread Loaf students stole from the town of Lincoln a half-century ago.

If you now have philosophical misgivings about attending an institution of higher education that counts an act of bald-faced larceny among its most fondly cherished memories, your conscience may be quieted by hearing that the bell was removed from an already abandoned schoolhouse and that no one in Lincoln has ever protested its absence.

On to today's question. If you think you know which play is Shakespeare's rainiest, send your answer to Jon Freeman by tomorrow at 11 a.m. Remember that clues – in this case, some helpful names – lurk within the headlines.

The Barely Necessities

Assuming that you did a pretty good job of packing all the essentials for a Bread Loaf summer – bug spray, toothbrush, Suppressed Desires costume (I'll explain later, new students), you won't have lugged along any of the items that will appear on tomorrow's list of the **Top Ten Things You Really Didn't Need to Bring to Bread Loaf**. Unable to draw on experience for any potential submissions to the list, you and your dorm-mates or other friends will just have to rely on your imagination for the humorous ideas you'll submit to Jon Freeman before 10 a.m. tomorrow, then hope a whole bunch appear in the final list, which will appear in Friday's *Crumb*.

It is the Start of Every Wandering BLArk

Not wanting to cause undue alarm on the first night of the session, Jim Maddox omitted any mention of what might be this summer's most significant project, the construction of the Bread Loaf Ark, or BLArk, as a contingency against ongoing precipitation.

Heath Hansum and the rest of the theater's tech crew have quietly begun construction on the BLArk, using timber initially ordered for the set of *Big Love* but hastily requisitioned for this emergency use. The BLArk will feature all the creature comforts of Bread Loaf Vermont. Ample supplies of coffee, earwigs, Otter Creek, and *Ellen* will be laid in; Adirondack chairs will be put to use as deck chairs; classes will continue according to schedule, although some professors have indicated that they may add *Treasure Island* or *Life of Pi* to their reading lists.

Maddox says he does not recall having received any kind of divine warning about excessive rains, although he noted that "it did seem odd that when I drew up the specs, I kept thinking of the dimensions in cubits." He also assured this reporter that by no means did he plan to observe the previous deluge-sufferer's implementation of strict species-based quotas, saying only that it would be "an enormous administrative hassle."

Regardless of whether the BLArk sails this year, Maddox says he plans to press it into service in 2007 as Bread Loaf's sixth campus (and its only floating one), tentatively called "Bread Loaf: The High Seas." Planned offerings include courses on Melville and "Signs and Semiotics in Pirate Dialect."

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 4

Friday, June 30, 2006

Trivia

Which Pulitzer Prize-winning novel – also one of the 20th century's ten best-selling novels – was published 70 years ago today?

Events

Friday

Senior Meeting
5, Blue Parlor
Capote 9, Barn

Saturday

Brandon 4th of July
Festivities (all day)

Square Dance
9-1, Barn

Sunday

Ultimate 2, Field
Blue Parlor 7:00

Dinner Menu

Chicken francaise
with parmesan and
egg batter; roasted
sweet potatoes
with sage; corn on
the cob; Chef
Jim's Surprise for
dessert.

Weather

Today:
PM storms,
74/58.

Tomorrow:
Sun (finally!),
80/66.

Sunday:
Scattered storms,
82/61.

Readers Frankly Disappointed If I Don't Give a Damage Report

Last night, we all met again in thunder, lightning, and in rain. Now that the hurlyburly's done, time to see if the battle was lost or won. It seems that a lightning bolt hit either the Inn or the Annex and affected the wiring in both buildings. So until we've had it checked out, please refrain from plugging in hair dryers, irons, or other appliances – smoke and flames were reported last night by folks who didn't like wet hair and/or wrinkled clothes. Please contact the Front Desk with any electrical issues or alarming leaks.

Whether or not a bolt actually hit the Annex, the storm pretty much fried the Bookstore's credit card machine, so only hard cash or checks will do for now.

Tales of Hoffman

Philip Seymour Hoffman won an Oscar this year for his portrayal of Truman Capote, so after tonight's showing of *Capote*, you'll have to wait until *Mud* and *Big Love* to see performances as superb as his. Showtime is at 9 in the Barn, with free salty snacks provided by the Director's Assistants. Several summers without a sighting may mean (sadly for some, not so for others) that the Barn Bat has found darker digs and moved out.

Srs. Attend New England Gown Meeting

Given the multitude of important matters that must be decided or discussed – electing a class president, selecting a graduation speaker and hoodier, getting measured for Commencement caps and gowns – all seniors should plan to meet in the Blue Parlor this afternoon at 5.

The Pardner's Tale

You don't need to bring a partner to the Square Dance, but you'll almost certainly swing one once you're there. We can only serve beer to folks who can verify their age, so bring an ID to become a golden sipper after finishing "Golden Slippers." The hoedown begins at 9; late arrivals will find it harder to catch up on the lingo and risk turning their square's Texas Star into a black hole.

Coffeehouse a Latte of Fun

Yet another opportunity for campuswide appreciation presents itself in the form of the Bread Loaf Coffeehouse – an evening of entertainment provided by members of the community who perform musical numbers, recite poetry, dazzle us with precision yo-yo acrobatics, or demonstrate assorted other talents. (Sort of like *American Idol* without the smarmy Britisher lobbing little grenades of scorn into the proceedings – Michael Armstrong is no longer allowed to sit in the front row.)

But no Coffeehouse can occur without a coordinator or coordinators stepping up and volunteering to orchestrate signups and emcee the festivities. If you're interested in taking charge, talk to Kurt or Jen or Christie.

Even Vegetarians Love BL T's

You shouldn't have to rely solely on your black-fly bites or your class notes on Walter Benjamin for fond memories of Bread Loaf 2006. One popular way to commemorate a Vermont summer is by purchasing the official Bread Loaf 2006 T-shirt – but first, one needs to be designed. Submit your best artistic effort to the Front Desk by July 9th; designs should be camera-ready, utilize no more than two colors, and incorporate the words "BLSE" or "Bread Loaf School of English." The winner receives a \$50 prize (hey, we're not exactly *Project Runway* up here, in case you hadn't noticed) and a complimentary shirt.

Campus Enters Blue Period

Student writers interested in presenting their work to the Bread Loaf community in a festive and casual atmosphere may want to read in the Blue Parlor after dinner on this or any Sunday. A signup sheet has been posted at the Front Desk, and if there are enough willing readers this weekend, we'll have our first gathering on Sunday at 7. We're still seeking someone willing to take charge of the Blue Parlor readings this year, so talk to a Director's Assistant if you're interested.

Monday's Reading Casts a Paul on Loaf

This summer's series of Monday faculty readings in the Barn begins next week, when Paul Muldoon will read works both familiar and new. Students new to Bread Loaf will not want to miss this event; perhaps the knowledge that in 2003 Paul won a certain little something called the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry will entice you to come to hear him read. A reception in Treman will follow.

If Dancing Makes You Want to Hurl

You'll burn a fair number of calories doing the Ladies' Chain and the Virginia Reel during the Square Dance, but if you wake up on Sunday wanting another workout (and a soaking, given the likely condition of the field), there will be Ultimate Frisbee at 2 in the meadow.

Walk-Through Run-Through

Weekends bring a break for the Waitstaff, who aren't at your every beck and call these next couple of days, and for the students, who don't have to adhere to the week's rigid starting times for meals. Weekend meals are cafeteria-style (walk-through), and the hours are as follows: breakfast 8-8:45, lunch 12:30-1:15, and dinner 6-6:45. The regular schedule resumes on Monday.

You're the Picture of Happiness

Ed Brown wisely schedules the All-School Photo early in the session; we tried it later in the summer one year, but too many students had to be forcibly separated from their computers, clawing at their desks and screaming "But I need two more pages by 2:00!!" all the way to the shoot. Next Tuesday before lunch is the time Ed's chosen to take our picture; simply follow everyone else to the meadow across 125 from the Inn, where you'll find him waiting.

Take a Swing At – No, *With* – Ryan

Ryan Houck is looking for a girl who knows how to Lindy Hop and might be interested in teaching a little workshop with him. He adds that “the older Savoy style is best, but I can fake Hollywood as well.” (Only in swing-dancing terminology is the phrase “faking Hollywood” not a redundancy.) Ryan says that his campus mailbox is the best way to contact him, but you can also find him in Annex 5.

Armstrong Casts a Spell

The true extent of Isobel Armstrong’s powers may have been revealed to us last night. It’s perfectly normal, of course, for her to give a captivating reading at Gilmore (and for those of you who wanted more information, the tale she read was Elizabeth Gaskell’s “The Old Nurse’s Story,” available in the Penguin volume of her *Gothic Tales*). What left this writer more impressed with, and not a little frightened of, Isobel, however, was the fact that the downpour stopped *just before* she began the ghost story, only to *recommence*, with renewed fury, once she had finished. I fear that many American students whose knowledge of English academia extends only to the *Harry Potter* series may now wonder whether this “Birkbeck College” at which Professor Armstrong serves as an instructor is actually the destination of many a Hogwarts grad, and she the resident expert on the Dark Arts.

For Career Advice, Talk to Carney

A representative from Carney-Sandoe & Associates, America’s leading teacher-placement agency, will be visiting Bread Loaf on July 11th to meet with current or potential job-seekers. You can still sign up for an appointment on the bulletin board outside Elaine’s office, but act fast, as open spots tend to disappear quickly.

If You Don’t Bristol at Early Rising, Running

Anyone interested in running one of the area’s most well-known 5K races (and willing to get up a tad early on Tuesday to do it) might be interested to know that Bristol’s annual Fourth of July 5K race will take place on the Fourth (duh) at 7:30 a.m. The slightly more famous Outhouse Race (competitors racing in outhouses, not 5K runners scampering for the outhouses) follows at 9 a.m.

Head for Ed If You’re Keen on *Saving the World*

Like any other educational institution, Bread Loaf seeks to encourage and reward student initiative. Sure, everyone *wants* copies of Julia Alvarez’s new novel, *Saving the World*, and her most recent book of poems, *The Woman I Kept to Myself* – just like everyone *wants* a million dollars. But only those proactive people who pre-order a copy of one or both of these texts from the Bookstore (and at a reduced price to boot) will be guaranteed copies by the time Julia visits Bread Loaf on Thursday to read from her work. Everyone else will have to scramble for any available extra copies in a melee reminiscent of the 1982 Cabbage Patch Kids Christmas Panic. Make sure Ed Brown has your name on his list before Monday.

Bread Loaf Sounds Its Siren Song

Some would claim that Bread Loaf is a kind of Siren, luring scholars Vermontward each summer with its irresistible and unique song. What virtually no one knew until last night was that Bread Loaf *has* a siren atop the Inn, so when it sounded during the storm people were at a loss as to what to do. The siren is a signal to take shelter immediately – not that anyone was foolhardy enough to venture out last night, when shutting the front door of the Inn required all the force a body could muster. As part of its commitment to community service, therefore, the *Crumb* offers these additional Emergency Plans:

- **Continued rain:** Roast thigh-bones of sacrificial oxen in Blue Parlor fireplace, prostrate selves before Battell portrait.
- **Continued rain resulting in road closing resulting in coffee supply being cut off:** Ever read *Lord of the Flies*?

Springs Fling

Noam Osband writes, “Anyone up for a weekend excursion? This Sunday at Saratoga Springs, a two hour drive away, Phil Lesh, Trey Anastasio and Mike Gordon are playing and tickets are still available. If anyone is interested in going to the show and/or camping out the night before, speak to me or email me at noamosband@yahoo.com.”

Trivia Contest Civil War So Far

No blows have been exchanged in the heated summerlong trivia contest – yet – but as the summer progresses you can expect the frontrunners to abandon all notions of sportsmanship and civility in their hopes of being anointed Trivia God/Goddess in August. John Becker, Kurt Broderson, Team Pederson/ McMillan, and Christie Beveridge all answered the trivia question correctly for the second consecutive day, and Lucy Maddox chimed in with her first correct answer. All of them knew or guessed that *King Lear* is the Shakespearean play that uses the word “rain” the most. If you think you know which 1936 novel managed to garner both critical acclaim and widespread popularity, drop a note in Jon Freeman’s box.

Oh, You Really Shouldn’t Have!

The contributors to this week’s Top Ten list are mostly Bread Loaf veterans; perhaps it’s their years of Bread Loaf experience that enabled them to come up with the **Top Ten (Roughly) Things You Really Didn’t Need to Bring to Bread Loaf:**

19. 10,000 anytime minutes (OCE)
18. Sunscreen (WS, EMS, SWCH)
17. TI-83 graphing calculator (WS, DA)
16. A blow up doll of Old Piney (EMS)
15. King-size sheets (FD)
14. Wait – the Barn already *has* a piano? (PL)
13. Moose-B-Gone Wildlife Repellent (OX)
12. Poststructuralist smack talk (WS)
11. Abacus (FD)
10. High heels and Gucci handbag (DA)
9. Chloe Sevigny and Bill Paxton masks for the auditions of *Big Love* (SWCH)
8. My shillelagh, with which I intend to settle my blood feud with the Muldoons (OX)
7. Riptonopoly ® (DA)
6. All-in-one Universal Remote (DA)
5. Your Joseph Battell action figure, complete with a miniature copy of *Ellen* (Jim Maddox will let you play with his) (WS)
4. Posters of scenic locations (DA)
3. Your pet deerfly, “Fang” (DA)
- 2a. Your spouse (EMS)
- 2b. Wedding ring (OX)
- 2c. Underwear (OX, TSM)
- 2d. Your confessor (SWCH)
1. All that annoying dry-weather gear (FD)

Current standings: Director’s Assistants (DA) 6; Waitstaff (WS) 4; OXymorons (OX) 4; Exiles on Main Street (EMS) 3; Stuart Whittle’s Crunk Hip (SWCH) 3; Front Desk (FD) 3; Phoebe Lewis (PL) 1; Off-Campus Exiles (OCE) 1, Team Slobodan Milosevic (TSM) 1.

No News is Good News

For the *Crumb* Bum, that is, who takes a break from publication each weekend. Besides, ever since one of the thousand monkeys at a thousand typewriters who compose the *Crumb* in their spare time inadvertently brought forth a comprehensive set of labor laws, I’m required to give them Saturday and Sunday off. If no *Crumb* until Monday makes you feel Crumby, you’ll still have Dining Hall announcements, Front Desk signage, and the proverbial grapevine as ways of keeping up to date.

The Multiple Choice Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 5

Monday, July 3, 2006

Trivia

Which London ophthalmologist's writing career was spurred forward by the fact that, according to his autobiography, no patients ever came to see him?

Events

Madrigalists

5:00, Barn

Soccer

5:00, Field

Paul Muldoon

7:30, Barn

Dinner Menu

Grilled chicken
Tuscan panzanella
with red
vinaigrette or
barley risotto cake
with spicy apricot
glaze; roasted
summer
vegetables; yellow
cake with
chocolate icing.

Weather

Weather.com is
clearly hedging
its bets...

**Today,
Tomorrow,
Wednesday:**

Possible
isolated
thunderstorms,
high around 80.

Paul to Read at 7:30: Don't Mull Doin' Anything Else Tonight

Although the barley risotto cake will surely be appetizing, the biggest event on tonight's menu is undoubtedly Paul Muldoon's Barn reading at 7:30. (For the navigationally impaired among you, the Barn is the large yellow building with a sign reading "The Barn" above the door.) Paul's ninth volume of poetry, *Moy Sand and Gravel*, was awarded the 2003 Pulitzer Prize; his tenth, *Horse Latitudes*, will appear in October. When not at Bread Loaf, he is the Howard G. B. Clark University Professor in the Humanities at Princeton.

If, for some reason, you don't go to Paul's reading, which of the following is the most valid excuse?

- "Look, I only go to readings by people who have more Pulitzer Prizes than I do."
- "I fell while doing the reading for 'Meaning of Space' and was pinned beneath my copy of *Dombey and Son*."
- "Crumb announcements are meaningless, because I never learned to read. I'm a fourth-year Bread Loafer, and I never learned to reeeaaadd!!!!!"

Madrigalists Feature Tony Sopranos

The Bread Loaf Madrigalists will convene this afternoon at 5 in the Barn for their first rehearsal of the summer. Don't be misled by the name "Madrigalists"; this summer's predominantly 1980's repertoire makes no mention of shepherds, fair maidens, or maypoles. No auditions whatsoever – just show up and sing away. See Jon Freeman if you have any questions.

Which popular 80's song lyric would most easily be mistaken for an Emily Dickinson poem?

- "Toy Soldiers" by Martika ("Step by step – / Heart to Heart / Left right Left / We All fall Down – / Like toy Soldiers")
- "Sledgehammer" by Peter Gabriel ("You could have a Steam Train – / If you Just – lay Down – / Your Track")
- "Our House" by Madness ("Our House / It has – a Crowd – / There's Always something Happening / And it's Usually – quite Loud")
- "Push It" by Salt-n-Pepa ("Ah, Push it – / Push it Good / Ah, Push it – / Push it real Good")

Network Up and Running

That's the Bread Loaf Teacher Network (BLTN), and they'll be running to Barn 1 if they're late for tomorrow's meeting, which will run from 7-8:30 p.m.

What would Dixie do if you were late to this meeting?

- No one knows – everyone loves Dixie too much to risk saddening her by being late.
- Greet you with a big smile, a cheery hello, and boundless forgiveness and understanding.
- Subject you to the "Camel Clutch" move popularized by 1980's wrestling icon the Iron Sheik.

Everyone's Part of This Click

Today's your last *Crumb* reminder about the annual All-School Photo, which will be taken tomorrow right before lunch in the field across Rte. 125 from the Inn. Tomorrow's issue will run a congratulatory note for those who remembered and a withering put-down for the no-shows.

What do you always see in the All-School Photo?

- Corporeal spirit of Robert Frost hovering in third row.
- That wiseacre Spicoli giving everyone the finger.
- That the Faculty have once again decided that mooning the camera is a hoot.

The Sound of the Furry

Clare Mackenzie, Paul Muldoon, and the Angela/Stephen/Dash clan all report spotting moose this weekend. (Disclaimer: Clare acknowledges that her moose could have been a large free-range Morgan horse, as she only saw the hindquarters disappearing into the woods, but the *Crumb* finds this unlikely and gives her the benefit of the doubt.) All three sightings occurred in the vicinity of the Frost Trail, so if you're eager for a little close encounter, that'd be a good place to start.

What theory best explains why the moose so frequently appear near the Frost Trail?

- They hear it's the place they're most likely to see tourists.
- It's where Vermont 125 intersects with Moose I-83.
- Still puzzling over "The Oven-Bird"; must read it one more time.

Takes Balls to Suggest This

Bocce (also known as "lawn bowling" or "boules" or "pétanque" or "that thing where you throw the big balls close to the little one") seems to be one of the popular pastimes this summer, and its fervent practitioners would love to organize a campuswide tournament. So check the Dining Hall bulletin board for a signup sheet for just such an event.

What should the tournament be called?

- Lawn Bowl I
- Foxy Bocce-ing
- The Bocce-nalia.

Design Governs in Things S, M, L, XL

We're still seeking designs for this year's BLSE T-shirt; you have until July 9 to devise the design that best captures this summer's Vermont experience. All submissions should be camera-ready, contain the letters "BLSE" or the words "Bread Loaf School of English," and involve no more than two colors. Submit your finished designs to the Front Desk.

Which objects are most likely to grace the winning design?

- Coffee cup, Adirondack chair, book.
- Raindrop, tree frog, lightning bolt.
- The words "Coed Naked."

What Do You Do To Be So "Back in Blue"?

Just sign up at the Front Desk, if you'd like to share your short fiction, poetry, or memoir with an appreciative audience during our Sunday Blue Parlor readings. Last night, the first such gathering showcased the talents of Alison Barker ("How Not to Write"), Andrew Mahlstedt ("Concentric Wars"), and Logan Manning ("High School Haiku" and other poems), and you can be next if you slap your name in an open Sunday slot.

Why is the Blue Parlor called the Blue Parlor?

- a) Predominant color of furniture and wall décor.
- b) Lack of sun exposure makes it the coldest room on campus.
- c) It's where Joseph Battell held private screenings of a certain type of film for he and his lady friends.

Late-Ordering Students Might Get Butterflies

Remember that the Bookstore will reserve copies of Julia Alvarez's new novel, *Saving the World*, and her most recent volume of poems, *The Woman I Kept to Myself*, but only if you get your name on their pre-order list pronto. (You'll get both books at a specially reduced price, too.) The Bookstore will order a few extra copies of both texts and will carry a supply of Julia's other books, including *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* and *In the Time of the Butterflies*, but once they're gone, they're gone. And if past form holds, they'll be gone long before she visits Bread Loaf on Thursday evening to read from her work.

If you don't get copies of Julia's books, what else can you ask her to autograph?

- a) Hastily scribbled transcription of one of the poems she read.
- b) Your sweet cheeks. She chooses which one.
- c) Letter unofficially appointing you "Kegmaster Laureate of the United States."

For Job-Seekers Who'd Sure Like Homes

Only a few appointment times with the representative from Carney, Sandoe & Associates, the nation's leading teacher placement firm, are still available. Hie thee forthwith to the bulletin board outside Elaine's office to secure one of the precious remaining slots.

Which of the following are qualities independent schools look for in prospective faculty?

- a) Expertise, passion for subject, love of children.
- b) Ability to teach, coach, live in dorm, and serve on committees.
- c) Unquestioning acceptance of slave wages.

Out, Out, Brief Candle

This should be obvious to all of you, but under no circumstances are open flames (candles in particular) permitted in or around any Bread Loaf buildings. A fire would, given the age and construction of our buildings, likely prove catastrophic.

Aside from the risk of fire, why else should you not have open flames in Bread Loaf buildings?

- a) All Bread Loaf buildings recently upgraded and installed with cutting-edge technology of "electricity."
- b) They attract the gigantic mutant moths you see at Bread Loaf.
- c) It makes Frankenstein think you're forming a mob to come after him again.

Monday Anything But Mundane

What was the most amazing thing that happened at breakfast today?

- a) The blueberries were exceptionally large and plump.
- b) An ordering snafu meant that two muffins and a pitcher of decaf were all the kitchen had until to feed everyone, until Chef Jim pulled off a real culinary miracle.
- c) In a sign that he clearly takes after his parents, Dashiell constructed his first line of Shakespeare ("O, o, o, o," from *King Lear*), using only the cereal scattered before him.

A Handful of Dust

Andrea Lunsford's Language Wars class will be showing award-winning filmmaker Julie Dash's *Daughters of the Dust* on Sunday, July 9 at 7 p.m. in Barn 1. If you have never had a chance to see this important (and gorgeous) film about life in the Gullah Islands, please join them.

This has nothing to do with the film Andrea's showing on Sunday, but what did those deep, gunshot-like sounds that rang across campus this morning mean?

- a) Three days of class is enough to tell which students, well, just don't belong.
- b) It's just Leo keeping inquisitive fans away from Thomas Pynchon's secret cabin in the woods.
- c) Tonight's dinner menu is subject to change.

Grateful Student Awards Hersman Trophy

Margaret Hersman writes, "Four days without luggage can be a daunting beginning to a Bread Loaf summer. Due to many acts of kindness during this time, I survived these uncomfortable circumstances. I appreciate you and I thank you."

What else should Margaret do to reward those who helped her through this ordeal?

- a) Offer to lend them her clothes.
- b) "Pay a visit" to whatever member of the Tattaglia family's been giving them trouble.
- c) Tell them she's arranged "free refills" for them in Dining Hall; hope they're grateful (and gullible).

A Study in Scarlett

Jim Maddox, Martha Patton, Kurt Broderson, Christie Beveridge, Robbie Harold (whom I failed to credit for answering Thursday's question correctly), Team Pederson/McMillan, Jennifer McDaniel (first salvo from Asheville so far), and John Becker all correctly guessed *Gone with the Wind* as the answer to Friday's trivia question. The headlines "Trivia Contest Civil War So Far" and "Readers Frankly Disappointed If I Don't Give a Damage Report" may have clued them in; if you don't know the answer to today's question off the top of your head, scour the headlines for some helpful hints.

If you're desperate to get your name in the Crumb but can't figure out the answer to today's question, what should you do?

- a) Poke Crumb Bum with sticks until he gives you trivia answer to make you go away.
- b) Discover the supposedly lost third volume of *Ellen*.
- c) Report having seen a bear. Or an elk. Or a woolly mammoth.

Coffee? Tea? Me?

The Director's Assistants, Waitstaff, and Front Desk are among the teams off to a fast start in this summer's Top Ten competition, but there's still time to catch them if you organize yourself into some kind of cleverly named coalition and submit, by Friday, your ideas for the **Top Ten Signs Your Waiter Really Likes You**.

What can you do to make your waiter really like you?

- a) Arrive on time, say "thank you," leave promptly.
- b) Refrain from complaining that cappuccino isn't an after-dinner option.
- c) Every time you ask for something, conclude sentence with "and your phone number, you beautiful thing, you."

The AmeriCrumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 6

Tuesday, July 4, 2006

Trivia

What now-famous novel was begun on this day in 1862 as a tale told aboard a rowboat?

Events

All-School Photo
12:30, across from Inn

BLTN Meeting
7:00, Barn 1

Dinner Menu

Baked salmon
Brittany or vegetarian chili with wheatberries; summer zucchini, squash, mushroom, fennel seed, and pepper sauté; toasted almond saffron pilaf; pecan pie.

Weather

Today:
Scattered strong storms (what else is new?),
82/62.

Tomorrow:
Partly cloudy,
80/57.

Thursday:
Partly cloudy,
75/55.

O, Say, Can You See...

...Andrea Lunsford tomorrow? Absolutely; she'll be speaking at 7 in Barn 1 on "A National Study in Student Writing, 1985-2006." In 1985, Andrea read a stratified sample of 1000 student papers from across the country, then last year did it again. Tomorrow she'll report on some of the changes in student writing habits she noticed over this 21-year span. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Bye, the Dawn's Surly Bite

No more, decrees the Waitstaff, shall you receive cantankerous or petulant service at breakfast. (Not that there was any to begin with, but they're not ones to risk complacency.) No lack of sleep, lack of caffeine, or lack of satisfaction with the current state of their *Ceremony* essays will prevent them from taking extra-cheery care of your dining needs. This they do as a public service, hoping that everyone will spot some of the **Top Ten Signs Your Waiter Really Likes You** and submit them to this week's *Crumb* competition. So if Brittany, your attractive female waiter, tells you your options tonight are "salmon Brittany" or "salmon and Brittany," take note.

So Proudly We Ale

Certain fortunate ones in our midst may brag about having discovered in their mailboxes a cordial invitation to something called a "Director's Reception" tomorrow afternoon. At these parties, held on the Inn porch each Wednesday at 5, these A-listers will nibble toothsome hors d'oeuvres and sip a Copper Ale or one of Mixmaster Kurt Broderson's gin and tonics while mingling with Jim, the faculty, and members of the staff. Please arrive in "smart casual" attire; this lends a modicum of dignity to the proceedings and helps nurture Jim's Gatsby complex.

If you didn't receive an invitation, don't think for a second that it's because Jim's waiting for you to show us that you're really "Bread Loaf caliber" or that he's still peeved about your having taken the last hard-boiled egg from the salad bar when he was next in line and hoping for it. Yours will arrive one of these weeks – and some would say the later, the better, given that the G&T's improve in taste in direct proportion to the amount of stress from which you take a break to enjoy one.

At the Twilight's Last Gleaming...

...or, to be more specific, at 9 on Friday, the Barn Uniplex will show *The Squid and the Whale*, the story of two literary parents (Jeff Daniels and Laura Linney) whose writerly talents drive them apart and force their two sons to come to terms with the break. Although the Uniplex lacks the modern conveniences of stadium seating and cup holders, patrons can take comfort in the fact that admission is free and that Jen, Kurt, and Christie will give you your popcorn without *ever* guiltling you into spending the extra 25 cents to upgrade to a Super Combo.

Whose Broad Strip?

The Guys of Gilmore remain perplexed by the presence upon their lawn of an entire rear bumper, to which a Connecticut license plate is still affixed. If the best explanation you've been able to come up with is that some particularly industrious beavers must have seen the potential damming capacity of your bumper and *chewed* it off, head up to Gilmore to claim it. As always, the Gilmore residents remind everyone not to drink and drive.

Aid Bright Stars Through Perilous Fight

You'll be the star among stars if you're a gymnastics athlete or coach who can help the cast of *Big Love* negotiate the numerous fallings-down and gettings-up mandated in the script without getting too black and blue. Anyone who can help is encouraged to see Alan MacVey or come by the theatre and talk with Amy Stern or Faye.

O'er the Damp, Arts We Watched

Undaunted by the wet weather, Sara Blair's "Through a Glass Darkly" class ventured down to the Middlebury Art Museum last week to tour a small exhibit of photographs Sara has curated for the museum. You might be interested in exploring it as well. Sara writes that the exhibit, "Facing America: Photographic Portraits Then and Now," is "drawn from the wonderful photography collection of the Middlebury College Art Museum. Although the space is too small to allow for an official opening, the exhibit – which includes some very fine images by Mathew Brady and other nineteenth-century photographers as well as more contemporary work by Ralph Meatyard, Judy Dater, and Danny Lyon – will be up for the rest of the Bread Loaf semester. Please feel free to stop by if you're in the vicinity of the Art Center – all comments and feedback welcome!"

Were So Gallantly Dreaming?

If taking three courses sounded perfectly manageable back in March but now seems foolhardy, you have until the end of the day tomorrow (Wednesday) to drop a course officially. It works the other way, too; if you only enrolled in one course and now realize, having spent most of the last five days building a scale-model replica of the entire campus out of coffee stirrers, that you have *way* too much free time, you can officially add a course until tomorrow afternoon. See Elaine in the Office with any questions.

And the Rock

As at least one of our cohort has learned the hard way, there is a large rock, somewhat difficult to see, jutting out of the meadow just east of the Barn parking lot. This, as you might surmise, makes that particular location an unfortunate place to park. Please be on the lookout.

And the swampy condition of that meadow has meant that many cars have unsuspectingly trundled onto it, only to become, like a high school freshman reading a Pound canto, hopelessly immobilized. The number of cars at Bread Loaf makes it inevitable that some folks have to park on the grass, but exercise caution in that area, lest your parking spot become your car's permanent resting place.

Ed's Red Glare

Don't worry, it's just the flashing light on the front of his digital camera, which he'll use to take the Faculty/Staff photo tomorrow after lunch. Ed reserves his really red glare for people who persist in parking alongside 125 or haven't yet paid up for *The New York Times*.

"Da Bomb" BLTN

The oh-so-cool Bread Loaf Teacher Network meets tonight in Barn 1 from 7-8:30 p.m. (Members of BLTN know who they are.)

In Err

Although several people thought that the headline "The Sound of the Furry" meant that William Faulkner was the answer to yesterday's trivia question, the real clues lurked elsewhere. "For Job Seekers Who'd Sure Like Homes" and "A Study in Scarlett" pointed Team Pederson/McMillan, Christie Beveridge, Jay Crawford-Kelly, Jim Maddox, Lucy Maddox, Jennifer McDaniel, and Kurt Broderson in the right direction; they all guessed that the failed London ophthalmologist was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Lamentably, today's headlines offer no clues; I will tell you, however, that despite the fact that today is Independence Day, the work in question is by a *British* author.

Give Proof Through the Night

Proof of age, that is, at this Saturday's Retro Dance, on which I'll have more to say later. (The Vermont Liquor Board is as much of a stickler for strict serving policies as I am for being thorough with these headlines.)

That Our Flag?

Yes, it *was* the Stars and Stripes flying across from the Inn, last time I checked. (Hey, I needed *something*.)

Was "Sssss..." Still There?

The *Crumb* received an interesting (and, one can only assume, somewhat pressing) question the other day: "Are there any rattlesnakes in Vermont or New Hampshire?" According to www.geo-outdoors.info, there are "reportedly none" in either state, although I suppose we're only one *Antony and Cleopatra* asphandling scene gone awry from changing all that. For the time being, however, dear reader, sleep easy.

O, Say...

...that you've seen Katja Stieb's cell phone. It's a black and silver Nokia, and she says she lost it somewhere in front of the Inn or in the lobby last Tuesday. She's desperate to get it back; while the phone's practical use is limited to those downtown locations where Katja can get a signal, up here it's still a treasured objective correlative. If you see it, please drop it at the Front Desk.

Does That Star Bangles, Hammer?

Because Saturday is the annual Retro Dance, yes, we just might include "Manic Monday" or "You Can't Touch This" in the playlist. Starting with an hour of 1960's music from 9-10, we'll inaugurate a new decade every hour until we finish at 1 a.m. by partying like it's 1999 (although not to that particular 1983 song, which belongs to the 11-to-midnight hour). Hourly costume changes to keep pace with the decades are not required (although they would, I'm sure, be roundly applauded).

Yet Waive

Tomorrow is also the deadline for new students to turn in the blue waiver forms they received at registration. Elaine will gladly take them off your hands.

O'er the Land of the Free(way)

Sara Blair saw a coyote trotting past the Schoolhouse, right down the middle of 125 toward Ripton, early yesterday morning. (Local coyotes appear unperturbed not only by Angus, but by vehicular traffic and by the possibility of being issued a citation for failing to stay on the right side of the road as well.) She describes it as "a fairly large beast, with grizzled muzzle and lanky tipped tail and an oddly unhurried demeanour [that] looked nothing like the version in the *Lion King*, which so terrified my kids." Sara has "resolved to sleep later in future."

At the Homer

Saturday's dinner will be the annual Frost Picnic, held at Frost's summer lodgings on the Homer Noble Farm. This picnic is open to the extended Bread Loaf family; *all* students and their families are invited, including everyone not on the meal plan. As an added bonus, you'll be able to take a tour of the Frost Cabin if you're hoping to commune with the departed bard's spirit or just want to see what brand of coffee he drank. If you're coming from Bread Loaf, the Homer Noble Farm is up the dirt road on your right just before you get to the Frost Wayside on 125 (across from the Frost Trail); if you're coming from Ripton, the dirt road is on the left, just past the Wayside. Either way, you'll need to park at the Wayside or the Frost Trail and walk up to the farm.

The Brave

Actually, babysitting for Margery Sokoloff and Jeffrey Shoulson's children – Oliver (8) and Emily (3), to be joined by their big sister Sophia (10) after the mid-summer break – requires no bravery whatsoever, as the children are lovely and their Ripton summer dwelling features...sssshhh...*satellite TV*. No particular date or time at this point; Margery and Jeffrey are simply looking to gather names of Loafers interested in an occasional gig. Anyone who loves children, or satellite TV, should drop them a note via BreadNet or seek them out in person.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 7

Wednesday, July 5, 2006

Trivia

Whose body arrived in London on this day in 1824?

Events

Director's Reception
5, Inn Lawn

Add/Drop Deadline
5, Office

Ultimate
7, Field

Andrea Lunsford Presentation
7, Barn 1

Trivia Night
8:30, Two Bros.

Dinner Menu

Roast leg of lamb with herb jus or spanikopita with fresh cucumber-yogurt sauce; braised fennel, olives, and artichokes; lemon rosemary pilaf; clean your plate and I'll tell you what dessert is.

Weather

Today:
Sun & clouds,
79/55.

Tomorrow:
Sun & clouds,
73/56.

Friday:
Sunny, 83/61.

She's Still Preoccupied with 1985

Andrea Lunsford will speak at 7 this evening in Barn 1 on her findings from "A National Study in Student Writing, 1985-2006." In 1985 Andrea read 1000 student papers; in 2006, she did it again. Come to her presentation to find out the trends and changes she's observed between the two sample sets of papers – and no, the precipitous drop in idolatrous references to *Family Ties* is probably not of deep importance.

Come Gnattily Attired

Slather on some Deep Woods Off® over your "smart casual" getup if you've been invited to this afternoon's Director's Reception (5:00, Inn Porch) – the lawn is lovely, dark, and deep, but bugs and critters never sleep, and on your arms they'll land and creep. You'll enjoy some classy hors-d'oeuvres and a cocktail or two with Jim and the faculty before dinner. If you didn't get an invite, remember that there are four more of these receptions, and you'll be on the guest list for one of them; there's simply no reason to stand outside the perimeter of today's party shouting insurrectionary slogans about the unequal distribution of bacon-wrapped scallops.

War (and Pizza)

If you're frustrated that your extensive knowledge of basketball statistics, world capitals, or *American Idol* contestant biographies has thus far gone untapped at Bread Loaf, you might consider giving the weekly trivia contest at Two Brothers Tavern (on Main St. in Middlebury) a shot. For a small entry fee, you and your friends (or bitter enemies you've included on your team because they know everything about ornithology) can join in the competition for free food and valuable prizes, including the second-place Cheese Pizza of Shame. The fun begins at 8:30, but getting there earlier guarantees you a seat.

Drop Everything!

Oh, dear, that headline was just designed to get your attention and not to lead you to believe that you can ditch all of your courses and spend the next five weeks lolling in an Adirondack chair doing nothing more challenging than reading *People* and working on your tan.

Elaine wants to remind all students that the deadline for adding and/or dropping courses is this afternoon at 5. (All students, she says; faculty members who don't think they have any friends in their class and want to go home are stuck for the duration.) After today, don't come crying to the *Crumb* if you feel overburdened by your courseload of "The Longer and Less Engaging Novels of George Eliot," "The Complete Works of Joyce Carol Oates," and "The Problem of Pachyderms: The Absence of Elephants in the Works of Cervantes, Richardson, Austen, Bronte, Cooper, Melville, Dickens, Trollope, James, Dreiser, Conrad, Ellison, and Stoppard." (Cue at least one tart rejoinder from a faculty member about the fact that there is one obscure mention of an "elephantine" character in, oh, *Nostromo* or something.)

MacVey Looking to Groom More Talent

Big Love just got bigger. Alan MacVey sends word that he's still looking for one more man to play a groom in the summer's main production. If you're interested, drop by the Theater anytime.

Another Mass Exodus to Barn

Those wishing to attend mass no longer have to head into town to do so; mass will be said right here at Bread Loaf on Sundays at 11 a.m. and daily at 10 a.m. (T/Th/Sat in Latin, M/W/F in English). All masses will take place in the Barn East Seminar Room, fittingly located above the Mephistophelean abyss of the Barn East dorm.

¡Yo! Author Visiting Campus!

The apparent brusqueness of the headline belies the generosity and loyalty Julia Alvarez – a former student of David Huddle – brings to Bread Loaf tomorrow night. First Julia, the author of *¡Yo!*, *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, and most recently *Saving the World*, will read from her work in the Barn at 7:30. Then, if you've picked up any copies of Julia's books (still available in the Bookstore, but in limited quantities), she'll sign them for you. And if that's not enough to satisfy your Julia jones, you can chat with her at a post-reading Treman reception.

A Tale of Two Sitings

With Chef Jim, every meal is an occasion, but there are two dinners of special note this week. At tomorrow's Awards Banquet, Jim will hand out the various named scholarships and faculty chairs held by Vermont students and professors this summer. (Recipients of such scholarships have already been notified.) And on Saturday, the entire campus (including students not on the meal plan and their families) will adjourn to the Homer Noble Farm for the annual Frost Picnic, which will feature tours of the Frost Cabin, the poet's longtime summertime residence.

Verses Versus Verses

All students should have received in their boxes announcements of the annual Haiduke Poetry Contest, open to students at all five campuses. Paul Muldoon and David Huddle will read all submissions and decide how the whopping \$1500 in prize money should be allocated.

Students may submit one or two poems of no more than 40 lines each to the Bread Loaf Office by July 27. In order to ensure anonymity, please do not put your name on the poems, but on a separate piece of paper enclosed with your submissions. The winners will be announced in Vermont and on BreadNet before summer's end.

Student Experiences Loss of Innocence

Mark McCraig's copies of Burke's *Philosophical Enquiry* and Blake's *Songs of Innocence and Experience* were left in Barn 3 and have since vanished. Having undergone such an abduction may mean the Blake volume returns to Mark in a state of "experience," but he'll greet the return of his books with gratitude no matter what their physical or spiritual condition.

Picture Starts at 9 on Friday

This week's Barn Film, *The Squid and the Whale*, tells the story of a family's fragmentation after a once-famous novelist (Jeff Daniels), now settled into a comfortable teaching job, is roused into jealousy by the upstart talents of his wordsmith wife (Laura Linney). Writer/director Noah Baumbach turns out a challenging, ferocious, distinctly un-Hollywood tale of divided loyalties and family tension. Showtime is at 9 on Friday.

No, Picture Start's at 7 on Saturday

Middlebury College's "Picture Start" International Film Festival continues this and every Saturday, showing a different film from a different Language Schools-represented country each week. This weekend's fare is *Hidden [Caché]*, a "taut, terse, and immediately engaging" (LA Times) thriller concerning a happy couple whose lives are upturned by the arrival of a mysterious videotape that reveals that a hidden camera has been watching them. Showtimes are 7 and 9:30 in the Dana Auditorium, with a discussion in English following the 7 p.m. showing.

Student Thinks He Can Fly

Botum Bou would like to know if there are any fly-fishermen or fly-fisherwomen out there willing to help a novice along. He's taken some lessons and gotten – dare I say it? – *patience*, young Crumb Bum, *whispers the disembodied voice of former Crumb Editor Hugh Coyle, patience... stay away from the Obvious Pun...* – OK, gotten to the point where he immensely enjoys the sport.

He's also not one to stand idly by while the clay courts are nursed back to tournament condition; he wouldn't mind going down to Middlebury College to play tennis if anyone is interested. You can get in touch with Botum via BreadNet.

Dance Beats On Ceaselessly into the Past

Come on, baby, let's do the Twist. And the Mashed Potato, and the Hustle, and the disco, and the Moonwalk, and then some break-dancing, and the Electric Slide, and the Macarena... You might do any of these at Saturday's Retro Dance, which begins at 9:00 with music of the 1960's, then marches forward, a new decade each hour, ending with the 1990's from 12-1. If you feel disoriented by our four-hour tour of ten presidencies, a twentyfold increase in the cost of a cup of coffee, and at least three distinct incarnations of Michael Jackson, comfort yourself with the constancy of *60 Minutes*, the Oreo, and Dick Clark.

Corrections Rattle Crumb Bum

Marty McMahon points out two disturbing errors in previous *Crumbs*. The first, neglecting to mention that he answered the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle trivia question correctly, is easily remedied with an Official *Crumb* Apology and Notice of Deep Humiliation.

The second, not reporting that pockets of rattlesnakes *have*, from time to time, turned up in Vermont, and that a "surviving natural community resides in the southwest corner of the state – roughly in the Bridport area," leaves the *Crumb* Bum deeply concerned. Why, just yesterday he assured his readers that rattlers couldn't be found in Vermont. And who knows how many of them have been walking blithely around Bridport since then, ankles dangerously exposed? The *Crumb* can only hope that no one sues for damages resulting from the paper's inaccuracy, as its "legal team" consists only of a guy who once read *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

She Walks on Brute-y

A large black bear trundled across 125 an alarmingly short distance in front of Jenny Green-Lewis, who was walking the family dog at the time. Neither the bear nor the dog evinced the slightest interest in the other, much as the coyote in Paul's poem ignored Angus and vice versa. After all of these uneventful encounters, I was prepared to discard my "Circle of Life" worldview in favor of the belief that Vermont was the manifestation of the Peaceable Kingdom, where all animals coexist harmoniously. Then some Frothingham folk discovered half a rabbit by Treman this morning, which reminded me that I should know better than to doubt the wisdom of the Disney Corp.

Gilmore: Inn Toxic, Hated No More

The Men of Gilmore will assuredly revise their opinion of the residents of the Inn (currently they believe girls have "cooties") if the Inn-habitants follow Dana Kirk's advice to contribute five dollars to her to help Gilmore subsidize the Thursday night conviviality. Dana says that you "can leave the money either in my hands or in the ugly stained lamp shade, outside room #3, which may find its way atop a Gilmore resident on Thursday night."

Early reports from Gilmore are that a small, small, but nevertheless discernible *profit* was turned by last week's contributions; after further discussions with their CFO, the dorm has decided that investors would be more pleased if the surplus were reinvested in "R&D" ("retrieval" and "disposal" of metal beverage containers) instead of returned to their shareholders in a number of checks for \$.02.

Become Trivia Lord by Run-of-the-Mill Method

You'll have to get the answer to today's trivia question by conventional means (just plain knowing it or, more likely, by finding the right clues among today's headlines). We won't call what happened yesterday "cheating," but let's just say that Jay Crawford-Kelly and Team Pederson/McMillan benefited from a distinct home-campus advantage in correctly guessing that it was *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* that fellow Oxonian Lewis Carroll began telling to the Liddell sisters 144 years ago yesterday. Michael Dirda, Jennifer McDaniel, and Kurt Broderson, despite the handicap of having to make the cognitive leap across the pond, also answered correctly. If you know today's corpse in question, tell Jon Freeman by 11 a.m. tomorrow.

Love Is a Many-Splenda'd Thing

Perhaps it was the way he or she got you artificial sweetener, perhaps the lilting cadence of his or her voice reciting the day's menu. If you were already particularly smitten by a member of the Waitstaff before this week, you're likely to see what you think are **Top Ten Signs that Your Waiter Really Likes You** in everything he or she does; after all, Benedick was convinced Beatrice's "Against my will I am sent to bid you come into dinner" was a transparent overture. But submitting routine and unsuggestive acts, such as "pours me coffee" or "scrapes excess food together into unappetizing pile of slop at meal's end," is unlikely to garner you many spots in the final list, which appears in Friday's *Crumb*.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 8

Thursday, July 6, 2006

Trivia

**Which
novelist (and
Nobelist)
died on this
day in 1962?**

Events

Soccer
5:00, Field

Madrigalists
5:00, Barn

**Awards
Banquet** 6:00

Julia Alvarez
7:30, Barn

Gilmore 9:00

**Porches Pipe
Down** 11:00

Dinner Menu

Greek salad;
chicken marsala
or mushroom
crepes Bismarck
style; summer
roasted
vegetables;
creamy polenta;
chocolate
cream pie.

Weather

Today:
Pretty nice. A
few clouds,
74/54.

Tomorrow:
Nicer. Sunny,
83/61.

Saturday:
Nicer still.
More sun,
86/65.

Julia Alvarez Returns to Bread Loaf to Read Tonight

Julia Alvarez once admitted that she was nervous when making her first journey to Bread Loaf – partially because she wasn't sure exactly what she was doing starting graduate work at this oddly named and remotely located institution, partially because she wasn't at all sure her aged car could scale the mountain. Tonight, however, she'll return to triumphant acclaim (and, one presumes, in a vehicle better suited to Vermont's terrain) to read from her work in the Barn at 7:30. Her visit promises to be one of the highlights of the summer, so get there early to snag the best seats. After the reading, she'll sign copies of her books before repairing to a casual reception in Treman.

If you ordered any of Julia's books from the Bookstore but have not picked them up yet, they'll be waiting at the reading for you. Anyone still wishing to purchase her most recent novel, *Saving the World*, may do so at the reading. Copies are \$20 each, and only cash or checks will be accepted.

Chair Man Jim to Reward Masses

Now that he's had time to sort through the avalanche of gladiola bouquets and sycophantic letters that invariably greets him at the start of each summer, Jim Maddox is ready to award endowed faculty chairs to distinguished Bread Loaf professors at tonight's Awards Banquet. He will also announce the recipients of the many student scholarships that friends of Bread Loaf have, through their generosity, made available. Since all named scholarships are simply attached to existing financial aid awards, with no student receiving any additional funds for being awarded such a scholarship, any particularly fawning attention you've given Jim recently in the expectation of being rewarded for your devotion will not result in your being mentioned tonight (although it might mean you get served with slightly less of his customary derision if he's your server on Faculty Wait Night).

Madrigalists Hit New Low

Monday's Madrigalists rehearsal was a smashing success, in no small part due to the record six basses who turned out, outnumbering the traditionally dominant soprano and alto sections. They'll rehearse again this afternoon at 5 in the Barn, and your voice – however high or low – would be a welcome addition to the Bread Loaf Fight Song.

Stony Sleep Vexed to Nightmare

Two mighty forces begin to contend around this point each summer: the stress generated by one's various academic obligations and the urge to relieve that stress by singing, chatting, and laughing on one's porch with one's friends. Lamentably, the two cannot coexist peacefully, so please keep things quiet after 11 p.m. (although revelers are welcome to head to the Barn after that time). Otherwise, things fall apart, center cannot hold, mere anarchy loosed upon world, etc., etc. Please respect your neighbors' need for intellectual beauty rest and retire at a reasonable hour. On a related note, Jim has sent a strongly worded letter to the tree frogs, warning them that he'll "go *Magnolia* on your asses" unless they cease and desist their nocturnal chirping.

The Quid and the Ale Tonight at 9

If you're heading to Gilmore tonight, be sure you have equipped yourself properly. The most important item to bring on an expedition of this nature is American money; \$5 or so will go a long way towards appeasing the indigenous folk and obtaining some of the local fire-water. Flashlights, bug spray, and an interest in hearing a story from tonight's mystery reader (to say nothing of the continuing saga of *Ellen*) may also come in handy.

The Squid and the Whale Tomorrow at 9

Clarification: *The Squid and the Whale* is not a National Geographic Films production brought to you in thrilling IMAX 3-D. Special glasses are not required to view the film properly. You will not be treated to the drama of a battle between these two leviathans of the deep. You will not be pressured by your children to buy a horribly overpriced plush squid upon exiting the theater. You will, however, receive free salty snacks from the Director's Assistants; whether they'll be able to secure a case of the hard-to-find (and even harder-to-eat) Frito-Lay "Calamar-Eez!!" crunchy squid chips remains to be seen.

Frost Picnic a Gift Outright

Jim reminds everyone that this Saturday's Frost Picnic is open to the entire Bread Loaf community – on- and off-campus residents and their families alike. The buffet line will open at 6, but Frost Cabin tours will be available starting at 5 for those interested in seeing the poet's spartan summer abode. His tube of toothpaste, his can of shaving cream, and the meteorological notations in his hand on the back of a closet door are all certainly interesting, but an essay citing the influence of any of these objects on certain passages of his verse seems ill-advised.

She'll Be Blue Without You

Lee Krishna is, as of this writing, the only reader signed up for this Sunday's Blue Parlor evening. The organizers urge any interested student writers to add their names to the sheet at the Front Desk, because if no one else signs up Lee might feel compelled to read the Addison County *Independent* classifieds, her laundry list, and the various credit card offers she received in today's mail in an effort to fill up the rest of the hour.

Golden Slippers Replaced by Boogie Shoes

Unfortunately, all the steps you so painstakingly learned at last week's Square Dance won't do you any good at this weekend's Retro Dance, as our musical selections will be drawn only from the 1960's onward. (You might "swing your partner" during "Jump, Jive, 'N' Wail" or "Goody Two Shoes," but not in the same way you did last Saturday.) Tom Bahre will not be around to walk you through the intricate sequence from "Vogue," either – but we're sure you'll still have a good time dancing to music from the 60's (9:00-10:00), 70's (10:00-11:00), 80's (11:00-midnight), and 90's (midnight-1:00). The *Crumb* Bum will be your DJ for the evening once he comes to terms with the fact that his entire career as a Bread Loaf student took place long enough ago to be classified as "retro."

Intruders in *Dust* Welcome

Even if you're not in Andrea Lunsford's Language Wars class, you're certainly welcome to attend their screening of award-winning filmmaker Julie Dash's *Daughters of the Dust*, an "important and gorgeous" film about life in the Gullah islands, on Sunday in Barn 1 at 7 p.m.

Seen Your Classmates?

If you know anyone who's graduating in August, tell them that Ed will take the Senior Class's photo tomorrow (Friday) right after lunch on the Inn porch.

A Bend by the River

Crystal Land reports that "Joanna Caldwell at Otter Creek Yoga (in Marble Works in downtown Middlebury) is an outstanding local Iyengar teacher and offers several beginning classes as well as a slightly more challenging class on Saturday mornings (9-10:30 am). Her complete schedule can be found on www.ottercreekyoga.com – and the Saturday a.m. class has the added benefit of being adjacent to the Farmer's Market for post-class snacking."

Also Teresa Schwartz sends word that beginning relaxation yoga will be offered in the Blue Parlor on Monday and Wednesday nights from 9-10. More sessions (including a Saturday outdoor slot) may be added if there's interest; if you'd like to attend, e-mail Teresa through BreadNet or just show up next Monday night.

Group to Go Down, Mow This Lawn for Bocce

The incredible number of people who have signed up for the bocce tournament has prompted Director Jim Maddox to approve the construction of a world-class *pétanque* facility in the unused patch of lawn just below the tennis courts. He's had to make some difficult budgetary decisions to free up the funds for such an effort; the faculty will, as a result, have to make do with the '65 Chateau Latour instead of the superior '64 vintage.

If you're one of the four or five people who *haven't* signed up for the bocce tournament yet, you can still do so outside the Dining Hall.

Student Wants Help Handlin' Mandolin

Deidre Cuffee-Gray writes, "I got a mandolin for my birthday in November and haven't done a thing with it. Perhaps there is a musical soul with a penchant for spreading the love of this grand instrument here on the mountain. I don't have an ounce of rhythm and all I want to do is slightly resemble Amy Ray from the Indigo Girls or some funky gal in an Irish pub. Short of that, someone who might be willing to help me learn what a well tuned G is and how to play a few basic things would be a dream come true...I'd be willing to barter for an occasional lesson (chocolate or beer are your best bets...). Email me or drop a note in my mailbox at the Front Desk."

Must've Lord My Standards

Perhaps I shouldn't have hidden the actual answer to yesterday's trivia question (and hidden it none too subtly, either) in the headline "Become Trivia Lord by Run-of-the-Mill Method"; perhaps people were just clued in by the headline "She Walks on Brute-y." Whatever the reason this many people – Team Pederson/McMillan, Jennifer McDaniel, Kurt Broderson, Christie Beveridge, Rich Gorham, the Alaska Babes in the Woods, Jay Crawford-Kelly, Michael Dirda, Martha Patton, and Charles Temple – knew that Lord Byron was the answer to yesterday's question, the *Crumb* Bum is determined not to make things this easy ever again. Well, maybe starting tomorrow, as savvy readers will probably have little difficulty spotting today's clues lurking in the headlines.

Submissions Need Not Be Tray Risqué

Of the many submissions the *Crumb* received for this week's list of the **Top Ten Signs Your Waiter Really Likes You**, a disturbing percentage are decidedly suggestive. (The one involving the yogurt and the walk-in fridge was downright lewd.) Now I thought that, as scholars, our pursuit here is the gratification of the mind, not of the base body, and I must protest in the strongest possible language this juvenile tendency...oh, forget it. ("Screw it," as your lascivious instincts would undoubtedly prompt you to phrase it.) Just send your best ideas, whether they be rated G, PG, PG-13, R, or NC-17*, to the *Crumb* by tomorrow at 9 for inclusion in that day's issue.

*NC-17 submissions subject to censoring, as in "He says, 'That is a [redacted] in my apron pocket, and I am [redacted]!'"

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 9

Friday, July 7, 2006

Trivia

Two of the performers of the songs in today's headlines share names with Shakespearean characters. Name the performers and the characters.

Events

FRIDAY

Senior Meeting
5, Blue Parlor

The Squid and the Whale 9, Barn

SATURDAY

Frost Cabin
Tours 5, Picnic 6

Retro Dance 9-1

SUNDAY

Pilates 10, Barn A

Mass 11, Barn
East Seminar Rm.

Ultimate 4, Field

Daughters of the Dust 7, Barn 1

Blue Parlor 7:30

Dinner Menu

Lasagna (meat or veggie); zucchini au gratin; garlic bread; lemon pound cake.

Weather

Today:
Mostly sunny,
82/59.

Tomorrow:
Sunny, 86/62.

Sunday:
Partly cloudy,
85/67.

One is the Loneliest Number

The continued absence of signups for the Sunday evening Blue Parlor readings has thoroughly puzzled Bread Loaf veterans. There's usually a mad scramble for spots, but this year there are still plenty of openings left if you'd like to read your own writing in front of a friendly and appreciative audience. With five – *five!* – creative writing classes going full tilt, there's surely plenty of wonderful work out there waiting to be read. But your short stories, poems, or memoirs aren't going to sign themselves up, so you'll have to drop by the Front Desk yourself. Talk to Teresa Schwarz, Meg Olson, Deidre Cuffee-Gray, or Vanessa Waltz if you have questions.

Lee Krishnan will read from her work on Sunday night at 7:30, and she'd love to be joined by one or more additional readers. Suitably refined refreshments will be provided.

Breakin' Up is Hard to Do

Noah Baumbach's critically acclaimed *The Squid and the Whale* is tonight's Barn film. It's not exactly a laugh riot, as the story concerns the contentious dissolution of the marriage of two writers and the effects of the split on their teenage sons, but it's certainly a powerful story that has the added allure of making your struggles to decode *Invisible Man* seem totally manageable and unworthy of distress by comparison. Showtime is at 9; the Assistants will dole out free snacks.

Jump Around

You can jump *around* from 9-1 at tomorrow's Barn dance, but the music will jump inexorably *forward*, beginning with an hour of 50's and 60's music from 9-10 and moving into a new decade each hour, on the hour, after that. Better bring your ID to get beer-ated by the Assistants while you're recuperating from "Y.M.C.A." and gathering your strength for a flawless re-creation of the subway-station gang dance from "Bad."

Like, a Prayer

A reminder that Mass that will be offered in the Barn East Seminar Room on Sunday at 11. The fact that this article appears immediately following the promotion of Saturday night's dance in no way suggests that certain types of behavior at or after the one might necessitate attendance at the other.

Say You'll Be There

Victoria reports that Ed really needs all the seniors to attend today's important class meeting at 5 in the Blue Parlor so he "can line them all up and shoot them." We're assuming this means that he's taking the Senior Class photo this afternoon, as Ed's homicidal rages normally coincide with a 17-year cicadan cycle not due to reemerge until 2011. Still, if he points you to an area of ground either covered with a dropcloth or adjoining a freshly dug patch of earth, distract him by saying "Look! The tennis courts are ready!" Then run like hell.

For Emily, Wherever I May Find Her

Vermont veterans will no doubt be thrilled to welcome Associate Director Emily Bartels back to campus during her short drop-in this weekend. Having not had her around to whip us into shape, chances are that we're a little rusty on proper observance of ceremony; remember that when she acknowledges your presence, it's kneel first, *then* beg an audience, *then* kiss the ring.

Into the Great Wide Open

A reminder that tomorrow's Frost Picnic at the Homer Noble Farm will begin with tours of the Frost Cabin from 5:00 onward; a cookout supper will follow at 6:00. To get to the farmhouse, park at the Robert Frost Wayside or the Frost Trail and walk up the long dirt road just east of the Wayside.

Jim Maddox adds that "it would be an act of corporal mercy for people to douse themselves with insect repellent before heading off to Homer Noble tomorrow. Hell hath no fury like the flying creatures on the road between 125 and the farmhouse."

Coming Up

With the campus appetite for regular readings by faculty members and honored guests now thoroughly whetted by the past week's events, you'll be glad to hear that Catherine Tudish will read from her work in the Barn on Monday at 7:30. Catherine, who has been on the faculty at Harvard and Boston University and will teach this fall at Dartmouth, is the author of the collection of stories *Tenney's Landing*, which reviewers called "a dazzling debut" "rendered in graceful prose and abounding in epiphanies."

Dust in the Wind

The Language Wars students' showing of *Daughters of the Dust*, a film about life in the Gullah islands, is coming up on Sunday night at 7 in Barn 1. Everyone is invited to this beautiful and eye-opening film.

Let's Get Physical

Allison Barker writes the *Crumb* with word that anyone interested in an hour of Pilates should come to Barn A on Sunday at 10. You'll be able to do the basic moves even if you're only in workout clothes, although hand weights and/or ankle weights would help maximize the workout.

U Got the Look?

If you think you've got the best BLSE T-shirt design ever but haven't submitted it to the Front Desk yet, better get cracking, because the deadline is tomorrow. Contest rules are posted outside the Dining Hall.

Bee-Lieve

The enormous contingent of Ultimate Frisbeers who thronged the meadow on Wednesday night has unanimously voted to switch the time of the Sunday game from 2:00 to 4:00 to avoid the post-lunch tummy-grumbles that afflicted many participants last week.

Simply the Best

For those of you who missed last night's Awards Banquet, here is the list of all the recipients of named scholarships and endowed faculty chairs. **Do not confuse THIS list with the Top Ten List, located in the next column.** That one is intended to make you laugh; this one is intended to let you know whom to congratulate.

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <i>The Beth Cubeta Scholarship</i> | <i>Clare MacKenzie</i> |
| <i>The Mina Shaughnessy Scholarship</i> | <i>Anne Martullo</i> |
| <i>The Charles Orr Scholarship</i> | <i>Jason Baeten</i> |
| <i>The Brent Goeres Scholarship</i> | <i>Andy Cabral</i> |
| <i>Larry Holland Scholarships</i> | <i>Kimberly Benson, Matt Peterson</i> |
| <i>The Kathleen Downey Scholarship</i> | <i>Ryan McClure</i> |
| <i>The Challenger Award</i> | <i>Chris Marks</i> |
| <i>The James Andreas Scholarship</i> | <i>Nicole Champagne</i> |
| <i>The Bailey Teaching Award</i> | <i>Lee Krishnan</i> |
| <i>The Betty Bailey Scholarship</i> | <i>Kendra Larson</i> |
| <i>The Hazel Haseltine Adkins Scholarship</i> | <i>Johanna Lewis</i> |
| <i>The Chase Byron Scholarship</i> | <i>Marisa Ortega</i> |
| <i>The Reginald and Juanita Cook Scholarship</i> | <i>Zoe Singer</i> |
| <i>The Mark Doty Wilson Scholarship</i> | <i>Zoe Lasden-Lyman</i> |
| <i>The Ruth Walzer Scholarship</i> | <i>Deidre Cuffee-Gray</i> |
| <i>The Raymond Waldron Scholarship</i> | <i>Ileana Jimenez</i> |
| <i>The Wylie and Lucy Sypher Scholarship</i> | <i>John Becker</i> |

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| <i>The Robert Frost Chair</i> | <i>Michael Cadden</i> |
| <i>The Ruth and Lillian Marino Chair</i> | <i>Jonathan Freedman</i> |

A Little Respect

Alarming reports have reached the *Crumb* from several sources that diners have been short, rude, or excessively demanding with members of the Waitstaff. It's hard to imagine one Bread Loaf student treating another (you *are* aware that your waiter is a fellow student, aren't you?) in this manner, but apparently it's happening. The only joke there is about this subject is the one I hope your tablemates make to your face and at your expense should they catch you harassing your waiter in this manner (and revealing a lot about yourself in the process, I should say).

Also, please remember that the Dining Hall operates on an honor system; you're welcome to invite friends or family not on the meal plan to dine with you, but we expect you to pay for their meal at the Front Desk before you enter the Dining Hall.

Espresso Yourself

If your particular talent isn't really suitable for the Blue Parlor – fire-eating, say, or being able to recite all the elements in the periodic table in 35 seconds, or playing “My Humps” on the sousaphone – then you should consider adding your name to the Coffeehouse signup sheet posted outside the Dining Hall. Next Friday night we'll gather in the Barn for this annual parade of talent, legitimate and otherwise.

We Are the World

Well, we *have* the World – Cup, that is. At least we think we *might* have the capacity to broadcast the Cup final at Bread Loaf on Sunday afternoon. Watch the Front Desk and Dining Hall bulletin boards for an announcement yea or nay.

Things That Make You Go Hmmm...

Jennifer McDaniel, Marty McMahon, Kurt Broderson, Christie Beveridge, Michael Dirda, Jay Crawford-Kelly, the Alaska Babes in the Woods, Exiles on Main St., Rich Gorham, Team Pederson/McMillan, and Jim Maddox all knew that William Faulkner died 44 years ago yesterday. Today's question will separate the pop culture experts from the pure academics who think that Vanilla Ice is a dessert. And no fair breaking group performances down into their component members; you won't get mentioned in the *Crumb* for trying to get away with “Michael Williams in *Henry V* and Rich Williams, who played guitar for Kansas for a while.”

I Don't Want to Wait in Vain for Your Love

And if even a small fraction of these entries were inspired by actual occurrences, they won't have to. Feast your eyes upon the

Top Ten (Times 2.9) Signs Your Waiter Really Likes You

29. She passes you this note in the Barn: “Do you want soup with lunch? Check one: Yes, No, Maybe.” (OX)
28. Offers to help chew tough cuts of meat for you. (DA)
27. Writes letter confessing his “ardent” love, and promptly retreats to his estate in Derbyshire. (OX)
26. At receptions, anoints your mixed nuts with truffle oil. (DA)
25. Brings you chilled Evian on tray during Ultimate Frisbee. (DA)
24. Your fried eggs and bacon arrive in an insipid smiley-face arrangement. (AS)
23. You get asked if you'd like the “happy ending.” (MOA)
22. The light bulbs seem to have burnt out only in your section; only your table is dining by candlelight. (AS)
21. Comes to Suppressed Desires as your waiter. (DA)
20. Willing to put poison in the food of the loud guy in class. (MOA)
19. Extra scoop of ice cream with each course. (FD)
18. Snubs Dashiell to wait on you. (WS)
17. Sculpts bust of your head in Cabot “Private Stock”® Cheddar. (DA)
16. You look up from eating your salad to realize he has lovingly French-braided your hair. (AS)
15. Choices for dinner are “My room or yours?” (SWCH)
14. Whittles a block of ice into the likeness of Eros as you eat your breakfast. (SWCH)
13. Brings complimentary beverage and bag of peanuts during each of your classes. (DA)
12. Stands outside your window in a trenchcoat with a boom box blasting “In Your Eyes.” (SWCH)
11. Your plate of barley risotto cake arrives with a phone number written in spicy apricot glaze. (OX)
10. Fights with other waiters over who gets to clear your dishes. (PL)
9. Almost chokes to death when he discovers you using another waiter's napkin. (OX)
8. Keeps “spilling” the water all over his white T-Shirt. (OX)
7. If you don't sit at his table, spends entire week eating ice cream and watching *Bridget Jones' Diary*. (KT)
6. Two words: room service. (KT)
5. Wears a French maid uniform for you...with close-toed shoes, of course. (WS)
4. You're offered “thigh” and “breast,” even though quiche is on the menu. (GP)
3. You awake to the sound of stale tater tots rattling your windowsill. (SWCH)
2. Won't get off your lap. (FD)
1. Asks you if you'd like lunch “à la *When Harry Met Sally*.” (DA)

Current standings: Director's Assistants (DA) 13; OXymorons (OX) 9; Stuart Whittle's Crunk Hip (SWCH) 7; Waitstaff (WS) 6; Front Desk (FD) 5; Exiles on Main Street (EMS) 3; Apple Seedlings (AS) 3; Kilgore Trout (KT) 2; Men of Annex (MOA) 2; Phoebe Lewis (PL) 2; Off-Campus Exiles (OCE) 1; Team Slobodan Milosevic (TSM) 1; “GP” (GP) 1.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 11

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Trivia

Which poet was married today in 1937 with (to paraphrase his words) no money, no hopes of money, no one in attendance, and in total happiness?

Events

Carney-Sandoe Interviews
9-4, Blue Parlor

Search for Missing Flamingoes
All day, everywhere

Dinner Menu

Dill cod fricassee with corn or veggie strudel; salt potatoes; cherry pie for dessert.

Weather

Today:
Thunderstorms,
73/59.

Tomorrow:
PM T-storms,
77/61.

Thursday:
Scattered
storms,
74/59.

You Should Hear Him Fly

That barely audible buzz you'll hear in the Bread Loaf sky tonight is Jim Maddox's flight bearing him off to visit the campuses in Santa Fe and Juneau. (Only after several hours of questioning did the Ripton police decline to charge him in the theft of the Cherry flamingoes and allow him to leave the state as scheduled.) Robert Stepto will serve as Interim Director in Jim's absence and pledges to continue the tireless investigation of said crime until the perpetrators are brought to justice. Jim will return briefly next weekend before taking wing for Oxford.

More About the Lilting 'House

The synchronized swimmers have begun practicing their routines in John's Pond. The strains of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" being played upon the xylophone waft across campus nightly. And somewhere, somehow, someone is cooking up a rhythmic gymnastics interpretation of *Ellen*. All this means one thing – we must be gearing up for the Coffeehouse. Sure enough, on Friday night the Bread Loaf community will showcase its legitimate talents and its unique skills that can't quite be construed as "talent." Plenty of openings remain if you have a musical act or other performance you'd like to share; sign up on the Dining Hall bulletin board.

Organizers No Longer Have Blue Pallor

The Blue Parlor crew's dread that this would be a summer short on readers has been assuaged by the fact that the rest of the Sunday night dance card is now filling up fast. If you'd like to share your written work in a friendly and supportive atmosphere, sign up pronto at the Front Desk. Last Sunday's reading featured Lee Krishnan (two short stories and the poem "Bread Loaf, Vermont"), Mark Ostler (six poems), Katie DiMarca (the nonfiction piece "The Movie Star Moment"), and Patrick Martin (the poems "Scythe," "Bonfire," "Herd," and "Christmas Eve 1988."

Rinde & Ellen Return to Fields of Praise

One of the recurring highlights of recent Bread Loaf summers is the now-annual evening of indescribable, incomparable, wonderful entertainment by friends of Bread Loaf Ellen McLaughlin and Rinde Eckert. Ellen originated the role of the Angel in *Angels in America* and is the author of, among other plays, *The Trojan Woman*, *Helen*, and *The Persians*; Rinde's work as a writer/composer/director/singer/actor/movement artist has been recognized with two San Francisco Critics Circle Awards, two New York Drama Desk Award Nominations, a special Obie Award, and the 2005 Marc Blitzstein Award, given once every five years to a lyricist/librettist. This Thursday at 9 in the Barn, they will perform selections from Rinde's two most recent works, *Orpheus X* and *Horizon*.

Rinde is also looking for two tenors who can read simple music to help with Thursday's performance. If you fit the bill, drop him a note at the Front Desk.

Seek Out Sandoe for Careers sans Dough

If you're angling for that super-high-paying job, teaching probably isn't your field – but if you're embarking on a job search within the educational world and signed up to meet with the representative from Carney, Sandoe & Associates, remember to head to the Blue Parlor today for your appointment.

Voices Heard in Barn on Fri. Afternoon

Mark McCraig will show the film *Voices from the New American Schoolhouse* this Friday at 2 in Barn 1. It's a documentary about the school he founded in Maryland, which has no compulsory curriculum. Everyone is invited.

Off-Campus Readership Crumbling?

If you're not here for lunch and don't have any *Crumbs* on your table as a result, remember that you can always find the CyberCrumb, an electronic copy of the day's issue, posted on BreadNet in the Cyberbarn folder.

Battle of the Network Stars

Judy Jessup sends word to BLTN members of *three* big events this week:

- Tomorrow in Barn 1 at 7 p.m., the Educational Video Center's Steve Goodman (Founder & Executive Director) and Tim Dorsey (Managing Director and BL alum) will present on the organization's latest media production work with youth and teachers. EVC is an Emmy award-winning youth media organization founded in 1984 and dedicated to teaching social documentary production to at-risk youth and their teachers as a means to develop students' literacy and storytelling skills.
- BLTN will meet as usual in Barn 1 on Thursday night, this week ever so slightly earlier than usual (6:45-8:45).
- During the Andover Bread Loaf/BLTN meeting on Saturday (Barn 1, 10 a.m.), Jim Randels and Greta Gladney, directors of Students at the Center, will speak informally about surviving as a Ninth Ward community-based advocacy-for-public-education group after Katrina.

Waiter Subs Are Princes of Apple Towns

Shannon and Steve are avidly seeking extra waiters to work the Commencement Banquet as substitutes for senior waiters. They've got six seniors who will need substitutes, and given that they're already working short-handed at this point, they could use even more people to come forward. Volunteers not only receive \$20 for working that one meal; Steve and Shannon promise that anyone who steps forward now will receive preferential treatment in the dining room for the rest of the summer. (The *Crumb* did not ask, for fear of the reply, whether the "preferential treatment" included your choice of last week's Top Ten Signs Your Waiter Really Likes You. Perhaps such "incentives" can be negotiated.) If you're interested, find Steve or Shannon at a meal or drop one of them a line through BreadNet.

Mads Want to Let You Play, Be Golden

Jon Freeman is looking for an accomplished piano player willing to accompany the Madrigalists with one of their summer's pieces. If you'd be interested in this gig, for which you'd need to attend our Monday and Thursday afternoon rehearsals, send him an e-mail or find him around campus.

Stowe Away for Long Weekend

If you're looking for a fun getaway during Long Weekend, you might check out the Stowe Tango Fest, which takes place the weekend of July 21-23. Festivities include performances by the Dancing Classrooms program recently featured in the popular documentary *Mad Hot Ballroom*, live music, and the United States Argentine Tango Championship finals. For more information, go to www.stowetangofest.com.

Don't Race Through the House-High Hay

The mowing and repaving of Route 125, scheduled each year to coincide with Vermont's summer (July 11-15), has begun once again. Please use extreme caution when driving up or down the mountain, particularly when passing the heavy equipment.

It Made a Sound. Case Closed.

Walking down 125 yesterday, David Emory distinctly heard a big tree go down in the woods just west of the Inn. David points out that he was outside the woods at that time and technically not "there," so next time you're posed that supposedly answerless question, you can just say "yes" and confidently walk away.

Today's Answer Young and Easy

Many of the usual suspects spotted the headline "Sleepy Hello" and informed the *Crumb* that Washington Irving was the author Charles Dickens claimed to take with him to bed at least five nights a week. (Anyone alarmed by the wording of that last sentence needs a little remedial work with metonymy.) Kudos (the verbal kind, not the tasty granola bars, which the meager *Crumb* prize budget won't permit) to Marty McMahon, the Alaska Babes in the Woods, Team Beveridge/Broderson, and Team Pederson/McMillan. If you're trying to figure out the identity of today's mystery groom, several passages from one of his most famous works are embedded in the headlines.

Wild Life Sightings Continue with FOX

Having seen in Bread Loaf a combination of the most successful elements of *Survivor* (remote location, stressful tests of endurance and agility), *24* (constant air of beat-the-clock desperation), *Prison Break* (known in these parts as Long Weekend), and *Trading Spouses* (post-Suppressed Desires mischief), Rupert Murdoch went ahead and made Jim a very generous offer to bring Bread Loaf onto the small screen as part of FOX TV's fall lineup of shows. Precisely what this will entail remains to be seen, although the fact that Elaine just enrolled Noah Wylie, Pee-Wee Herman, Linda Tripp, Mr. T., and that woman who sang "Where Have All The Cowboys Gone?" in Bread Loaf indicates that a season of *Close-Reading with the Stars* might not be far off. Mr. Murdoch wants to solicit student ideas for the fall programming schedule, so if you have proposals for the **Top Ten Shows We'd See if Bread Loaf Was on FOX TV**, send them to the *Crumb* by Friday morning.

HAVE YOU SEEN ME?



Last available picture



Computer-generated image of what flamingo might look like today

**"Flamingo Twins" Age: Newborns
Color: Mostly Pink Height: approx. 1'6"
Last seen: Outside Cherry, Fri. evening**

Distinguishing Features:

- Preference for level ground (one leg)
- Distinctive rough-surfaced tongue, lamellae lining mandibles
- Easily tempted by small plastic crayfish

They are loved! They are missed!

Have information? Report any suspicions/sightings to Ripton Police, Ornithological Crimes Investigation Unit, Large Gregarious Wading Birds Squad

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 12

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Trivia

Which living Nobelist will not allow his most famous book to be made into a film "because the face of the actor, of Gregory Peck, becomes the face of the character. It cannot be your uncle, unless your uncle looks like Gregory Peck"?

Events

Director's Reception

5:00, West Lawn

Ultimate

7:00, Field

EVC

Presentation

7:00, Barn 1

Dinner Menu

Creole roast pork or sweet potato polenta with artichokes; spinach salad; couscous with toasted almonds; peach cobbler for dessert.

Weather

Today:

PM T-storms,
76/61.

Tomorrow:

Showers, 76/58.

Friday:

Mostly sunny,
84/63.

Colombian Exposition

Bread Loaf's Coffeehouse (Friday, 9 p.m.) differs from the conventional get-together of that name in several ways. Instead of a litany of incomprehensible beat poems, our performances may range from music to recitation to juggling to something more worthy of *The Gong Show*. Amusing or impressive acts should be greeted with raucous applause and whoops, not diffident snapping. But we're certainly not fool enough to mess with the refreshments. The Coffeehouse will feature coffee – good coffee, and plenty of it, as well as biscotti and other sweet treats.

If you'd still like to perform, there's plenty of room on the sign-up sheet outside the Dining Hall.

C U 4 EVC (1 R B 4 8)

Tonight at 7 in Barn 1, Steve Goodman, Founder & Executive Director of the Educational Video Center (EVC), and Tim Dorsey, Managing Director and BL alum, will give a brief presentation on their organization's latest media production work with youth and teachers. The EVC is an Emmy award-winning youth media organization founded in 1984 and dedicated to teaching social documentary production to at-risk youth and their teachers as a means to develop students' literacy and storytelling skills. Everyone is invited to attend.

Green Peace Active in Middlebury

Middlebury's Festival-on-the-Green continues all this week with daily "Brown Bag Special" performances at lunchtime, live music every night at 7 and 8:30, and Saturday's traditional Street Dance, featuring the Vermont Jazz Ensemble, at 7. If you're looking for an evening escape, just follow Route 7 into town; you can't miss the crowds and the big tent. There's more info at festivalonthegreen.org.

Borrow Front Desk's Cranium

The Front Desk has acquired a copy of the board game Cranium and will lend it to anyone who asks. Scrabble, Apples to Apples, and other titles may follow if they become locally available.

Until some matters of capitalization were resolved, the story seemed to be that the Front Desk would lend a cranium to anyone who wanted one. I'm glad that this is not the case, as such a proposal would have raised several ethical questions (Does receiving such assistance constitute academic dishonesty? Can you pick the cranium you feel is most intelligent, or do you have to settle for whoever's next in the rotation?).

Ripton Becomes the Rinde City

Tomorrow night at 9 in the Barn, come hear world-renowned actors/singers/playwrights/musicians Ellen McLaughlin and Rinde Eckert perform selections from Rinde's two latest works, *Orpheus X* and *Horizon*. *Orpheus* is Rinde's operatic take on the myth of the same name, and *Horizon* is a play with music concerning Reinhold Niebuhr.

Ellen and Rinde would love to enlist two tenors to help them with tomorrow's concert, so drop them a line at the Front Desk if you can read simple music and would like to assist.

Ho Down Saturday Night

During last week's otherwise successful Barn Dance, a professor (whose name shall not be revealed here for fear of retribution) complained that there were, and I quote, "too many songs about whores." The tunes in question were "Lady Marmalade" (no debate there) and "Oh, What a Night," (the line "You know, I didn't even know her name" being the one that prompted the protest). We at Bread Loaf always try to respect *everyone's* sensibilities, so the possibility of banning all whore-related music from Barn dances was entertained at a recent staff meeting. However, close scrutiny of the popular music of the past thirty years revealed that such a decree was patently unfeasible; it would eliminate the entire Madonna catalog, decimate huge tracts of hip-hop, and leave the DJs with approximately 34 minutes of playable music before they had to resort to *The Best of Anne Murray* (and even on that album, "Somebody's Always Saying Goodbye" sounds mighty suspicious). So we'll follow the normal protocol this weekend – 9-1, bring your ID, etc., etc. See you there.

Stressed Students Become Got-A-Tonic

For those who received an invitation, nothing relieves the anxiety of that looming 6-page essay like a little down time at today's Director's Reception on the West Lawn of the Inn starting at 5 p.m. There, you'll partake of fine hors d'oeuvres and expertly mixed gin-and-tonics while enjoying the company of the faculty and staff. (Those not on this week's guest list, but still borderline psychotic, must either suck it up or resort to more drastic methods of stress relief, such as strolling to the middle of the meadow, then twirling furiously while belting out "The Sound of Music.") Remember that "smart casual" attire is recommended; looking sharp in front of Interim Director Robert Stepto increases the chances that he'll reward you with one of the high-paying, low-effort patronage jobs he's now in a position to bestow upon favored supporters.

Noise Creates Time of Choler

As the summer enters its middle weeks, more and more students find themselves spiraling downward into paper hell. And when those students have to endure peers who persist in making noise on porches past 11 p.m., their level of irritation rises from Perturbed, hits Thoroughly Cheesed Off, and doesn't even glance at Infuriated on the way to the Glare of Death and the purchase of one of the Bookstore's Noisy Neighbor Voodoo Dolls. So please pipe down late at night.

Also, keep the Library conducive to study; too many folks have been merrily clattering away on the first-floor library computers that distinctly say "No Typing" on the keyboards. Don't incite the folks curled up by the fireplace to pull a *Howards End* and bury you beneath an "accidentally" tipped-over bookcase. Sure, Charles Wilcox got booked for "booking" Leonard Bast, but any Bread Loaf court would see it as justifiable homicide.

Not One Blundered: Here's a Solid Dude

Everyone who hazarded a guess to yesterday's trivia question got it right; the lines from "Fern Hill" in several headlines gave away Dylan Thomas as the correct answer. Lucy Goldstein, Team Beveridge/Broderon, Jennifer McDaniel, Jay Crawford-Kelly, Alaska Babes in the Woods, Daniel Ruff, Chris Benson, and Team Pederson/McMillan get the honors today (and, I expect, tomorrow as well, as today's clues are on the easy side).

Fox Gambols at Bread Loaf

Bread Loaf veterans may remember the days when the frolicking foxes kept themselves to the lawn in front of the Tea Cabin. This year, however, they've become far more intrepid, appearing on 125 as well as near Bridgman and Larch. No matter what you might recall reading in *Fox in Socks* or *Fantastic Mr. Fox* when you were young, these creatures are thoroughly undomesticated and should, no matter what their apparent level of interest in you, be kept at a safe distance.

FOX Gambles on Bread Loaf

Now that Bread Loaf has come under the auspices of the FOX Television network, several changes are in store for 2007. One room per dorm will be set aside as a video confessional, where students may go to vent about romantic, interpersonal, or academic concerns that will later be completely decontextualized and recontextualized in whatever scandal requires the fuel of your innocent remark. Also, expect classes to involve both immunity challenges and regular eliminations of the weakest link, so that by Week 6 only the staff and three lucky students will remain on campus. Got more ideas? Send them to Jon Freeman by Friday morning to see them included in this week's list of the **Top Ten Shows We'd See if Bread Loaf Was on FOX TV.**

Chronicles of a Net Foretold

For some time, the *Crumb* investigative reporters have been in possession of evidence of leisure-sport-related corruption at the highest levels of the Bread Loaf administration – but until Jim's departure, they feared the persecution and bodily harm that might result from disclosing what they knew. Now that Jim has departed for points westward, the true story can be told.

Everyone familiar with Bread Loaf politics knows that the bocce lobby is one of the most formidable and ruthless interest groups on campus, and the pressure they exerted on Jim to yield to their demands – official recognition as a Bread Loaf activity, suitable playing facilities – had been mounting for years. (The breaking point came in May, when the bocce lobby allied itself with Cashew Suppliers Local 47, which then threatened Jim that "uncooperative behavior" might mean that the summer's supply of his beloved nuts would be unavoidably "held up in transit.")

The early summer's torrential rain was, to Jim, the Perfect Storm – a way for Jim to line his own pockets while appeasing the bocce lobby. Summoning the bocce lobby to a backroom meeting at Earthworm, he guaranteed them the property rights to the tennis courts in exchange for a disturbingly low sum of hush money and several cases of black-market 151-proof Vermont maple syrup.

His reasoning? Surely the tennis courts would remain unplayable for days – even weeks. When they were theoretically fit for use once again, Jim knew he could delay their re-installation by citing general safety concerns and inventing other ostensibly more urgent tasks for the grounds crew. (Alan MacVey and David Huddle might raise a stink, but Jim knew how to buy their silence.) After a while, everyone would assume that there would be no tennis this summer; then, having already instructed Sandy to enroll only new students in Vermont next year, Jim planned to call the former tennis courts "the bocce pitch" in his 2007 opening address, thus guaranteeing that they would be forever known as such.

But Jim left yesterday and handed the reins to Interim Director Robert Stepto – who, displaying an Elliot Ness-like refusal to "play ball" with the sordid characters of the bocce underworld, immediately ordered that the tennis courts be reopened. Stepto further pledged that his administration would root out not just the bocce corruption at Bread Loaf, but the Apple Cellar's "5 cents a page" money-laundering fund and the Ultimate Frisbee gun-running syndicate as well. He says he plans to call this collection of far-reaching reform effort "The Hundred Days"; when informed by the Assistants that he would only be Interim Director for approximately three weeks, Stepto replied, "Well, then, you'd better get cracking, hadn't you?"

Sources report that Stepto is currently in negotiation with British authorities to have Jim's July 22nd flight to Oxford redirected to Elba.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 13

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Trivia

Which author claimed that the fictional part of him "dried up" in 1924?

Events

Madrigalists
5:00, Barn

Soccer
5:00, Field

BLTN
6:45-8:45,
Barn 1

**Ellen
McLaughlin &
Rinde Eckert**
9:00, Barn

Gilmore
9:00-ish

Dinner Menu

Grilled tuna
ratatouille with
herbs or
mushroom ravioli
with carrot-orange
sauce; saffron
pilaf; yellow cake
with chocolate
frosting.

Weather

Today:
AM showers,
77/59.

Tomorrow:
Mostly sunny,
86/62.

Weekend:
Partly cloudy,
88/65.

Madrigalists Begin Longest Journey

Perhaps the opportunity to sing Steve Perry's criminally underappreciated "Foolish Heart" might entice some closet Journey fans into showing up for this afternoon's Madrigalists rehearsal. And don't pretend that you're not out there – extensive sociological research indicates that a full 74% of U.S. citizens who were between the ages of 7 and 34 during the early 1980's have – in the car, the shower, or elsewhere – pretended to be Journey lead singer Steve Perry belting out "Separate Ways" or "Any Way You Want It" or, most commonly, "Don't Stop Believin'":

Do-hon't stop! Be-lee-hee-vin!

Hold on to that FEE-lay-hee-yay-hey-yan!

Anyone who actually *has* Steve Perry's voice should have signed up for Madrigalists, Coffeehouse, and *Bread Loaf Idol* long ago.

If there's a piano player out there who'd be willing to serve as an accompanist for one of the Madrigalists' numbers, Jon Freeman would love to hear from you.

Orpheus (And You'll Rinde See)

Come to the Barn tonight at 9:00 to see Ellen McLaughlin and Rinde Eckert perform selections from two of Rinde's recent works, *Orpheus X* and *Horizon*. *Orpheus X* reimagines the mythological character as a rock star, electric guitar replacing lyre, who embarks on a kind of UnderWorld Tour to reclaim, through song, his Eurydice.

Horizon concerns one night of work and wondering in the life of a theologian whose commitment to open inquiry has endangered his teaching job at a seminary and prompted him to contemplate his future. Rinde and Ellen's Bread Loaf performances are legendary; you won't want to miss this exciting and unique evening.

REMember Saturday Dance

That's great, it starts with an earthquake, Barn-shaking Saturday, dance (you shouldn't be afraid). 9 p.m., until 1, lotta dancing, lotta fun, Eminem, Gwen Stefani, Prince, Madonna, never Yanni, 50 Cent, Black Eyed Peas, disco from the seventies, Kurt and Christie, beer for free, that guy's pissed, he forgot ID, Beastie Boys, Bonnie Raitt, paper's grammar? It can wait, Lil' Kim, Lil' John, party till the break of dawn, well, not really, that's a lie, 1:00 the taps run dry, anyway, you get my point, come on over, rock the joint. Right? Right. It's the end of the week as we know it, it's the end of the week as we know it, it's the end (you) of (don't) the (need) week (more) as (time) we (alone) know it, and you'll feel fine.

Mutterings of an Old Pine

"The rain is disheartening," I continued, "but the old pine hopes that, should it continue, it will not deter Ellen from climbing the Gilmore road tonight."

"The pine *knows* that Ellen would not miss a Thursday night Gilmore gathering," Ellen said. "Tell me, old friend, can you see what we do there?"

"The old pine can," I replied, "and the sight of Ellen in the circle of light, talking and laughing with friends and listening rapt to an enchanting tale or two, gladdens this old Pine." I did not mention, for fear of saddening this jewel of womanhood, how much it pains me that the people there see fit to burn bits of what could one day be the Old Pine himself while reading from various texts that, for all I know, are just milled and pulped former friends and neighbors. Oh, have a nice fire, Gilmore boys – but I know who you are, and if one of you happens to wander under my branches, I'm gonna make *Little Shop of Horrors* look like *Make Way for Ducklings*.

Oskar Wild for Bread Loaf

An early heads-up to clear your calendar for Monday's Elizabeth Drew Memorial Lecture, to be delivered this year by Oskar Eustis. Bread Loaf knows Oskar as a beloved former faculty member, but he's garnered national acclaim as the new artistic director of New York's Public Theater and as one of the driving forces behind Toni Kushner's *Angels in America*. Oskar will speak in the Little Theatre at 7:30 p.m., with a Treman reception following.

Coffeehouse Gives Talent Extra Shot

Just like your local Starbucks might do, the Barn will supplement its ordinary coffeehouse feel (constant beverages, homey atmosphere, laptops everywhere) with some live music and other acts on Friday night for our annual Coffeehouse entertainment extravaganza. We're up to a half-dozen acts, but if you realize in the next twenty-four hours that you have some impressive, embarrassing, unique, or indescribable talent that Bread Loaf has to experience, you can still sign up outside the Dining Hall.

Perfectly Normal to Hear Voices

Bread Loaf student Mark McCraig is also the founder of the Fairhaven School in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, an institution of "kid-powered learning" that "turns mainstream educational theory on its head." The school, which has no compulsory curriculum, was the subject of the recent documentary *Voices from the New American Schoolhouse*; tomorrow at 2 in Barn 1, Mark will show the film and talk about his school. Everyone is invited.

Seniors Perform Class Acts

Deidre Cuffee-Gray reminds seniors of two informal and optional get-togethers this week: Happy Hour tonight from 5-6 at the Waybury Inn and an early (5:30) dinner Saturday at American Flatbread. There'll be plenty of other opportunities to meet and greet (and eat), so don't feel under any pressure to show up to either event.

Network News

Tonight's Andover Bread Loaf/BLTN Meeting will take place tonight in Barn 1 from 6:45 - 8:45 pm, ending just in time for you to catch some of the other later-night events on tap tonight.

9-Year-Old Acting Up, Seeks Encouragement

Mimi Morimura's nine-year-old son, Brad, sends the following to the *Crumb*: "I'm interested in acting. Is there anyone who would like to tutor me in acting? Are there any children who are interested in learning acting?? Would you like to do it with me? Anybody who is organizing a play and needs a child actor please contact my mom Mimi (Mikiko Morimura). I've been practicing with this audition book. I don't have much experience in acting but I've been tricking my mom by crying and kicking and my mom fell for it every time."

Students at the Center of Saturday Discussion

On Saturday morning in Barn 1 at 10 a.m., Jim Randels and Greta Gladney, directors of Students at the Center, will speak informally about surviving as a Ninth Ward community-based advocacy-for-public-education group after Katrina. Anyone interested in this story of recovery is welcome to attend.

Secondhand News

The Bookstore will be pulling all pre-owned copies of texts from its shelves at the end of next week. After that, there will only be empty space where the deeply discounted copies of *The Empty Space* once stood.

Hordes End Up Submitting Correct Answer

A bevy of clues led a herd of answerers – the Exiles on Main St., Laura Cox, Lucy Maddox, Steve Dalvet, Carrie Jewell, the Bocce Lobby, Team Beveridge/Broderson, Jay Crawford-Kelly, Team Pederson/McMillan, the Alaska Babes in the Woods, Jennifer McDaniel, Chris Benson, and Blythe Coons – to deduce that Gabriel Garcia Marquez was the author who will never allow his work (specifically *One Hundred Years of Solitude*) to be adapted for the screen.

Not so with today's author, all of whose novels have been cinematized. (One even features an Academy Award-winning Best Actress performance.) If you think you know who the question refers to, tell Jon Freeman by 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Top 10 Teams Vie for King of the Hill Honors

For this week's Top Ten list, Bread Loafers must recall something called "television," which is apparently something you look at at night if you don't have books to read or mountain sunsets to behold. The various competitors will summon up memories of this "television," no doubt bringing up unpleasant reminders of the existence of the "real world" in the process, for this week's category: **Top Ten Shows We'd See if Bread Loaf Was on FOX TV.** Any humorous submissions you or your group can devise need to find their way to Jon Freeman's box by 10 a.m. tomorrow for inclusion in the final list.

VT Wildlife Bearly Compares to This

In Week 1, it's always fun to hear in the *Crumb* of the first moose sighting of the summer, perhaps a coyote here and there, occasionally an exciting encounter with a bear. But the reading public soon tires of these routine "news" items, so the *Crumb* will henceforward give preferential treatment to sightings of exotic animals (capybara, auk, Four Horsemen of Apocalypse), then to sightings of ordinary local creatures in unusual or intriguing contexts (moose behind Front Desk, coyote riding piggyback on bear, etc.).

The *Crumb* realizes that such a policy may encourage embellishment, extreme creative liberty, or downright fabrication in its readers desperate to have their close encounter printed. The *Crumb* is fine with this; unique among journalistic concerns of its ilk, nowhere in its charter is adherence to the notion of "fact" stipulated.

Nonetheless, actual news reports from Australia about the discovery of a "fanged killer kangaroo" and a "demon duck of doom" prompt the *Crumb* to inform its readers that such creatures could, theoretically, be prowling the woods of Vermont. The kangaroo is described as a "galloping, meat-eating [animal] with big, powerful forelimbs [and] wolf-like fangs...slicing crests that could have crunched through bone and sliced off flesh." Less is known about the "demon duck of doom" – researchers say that they cannot yet establish whether this creature is carnivorous or lives up to its name in some more frightening way. Despite the fact that thus far the creatures have only been located in Australia as fossilized remains dated at 10-20 million years old, the *Crumb* warns its readers to remain vigilant for malevolent "quack" noises or the simultaneous sounds of slaving and hopping.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 15

Monday, July 17, 2006

Trivia

Which enormously popular American author says he works until "beer o'clock"?

Events

Madrigalists

5:00, Barn

Senior Meeting
5:00, Blue Parlor

Elizabeth Drew
Lecture: Oskar
Eustis, "The
Public of the
Public"
7:30, Barn

Dinner Menu

Bangers and
mash with
bourbon sauce or
lentil stew with
rice cakes, crispy
onions, and
yogurt; braised
collard greens;
broiler cake.

Weather

Today:
Still hot,
89/66.

Tomorrow:
Scattered
storms,
79/56.

Wednesday:
Sunny,
80/58.

Public Speaker: Oskar Eustis Delivers Drew Lecture Tonight

Oskar Eustis, the Artistic Director of New York's Public Theater and a professor at Bread Loaf Vermont for many summers, will deliver this year's Elizabeth Drew Memorial Lecture tonight at 7:30 in the Barn. Oskar's topic will be "The Public of the Public: A Theater and Its Audience." Over a quarter of a million people a year attend the Public's performances, including its well-known Shakespeare in the Park productions, but Oskar has spoken of bringing even more "radical accessibility" to what he is not alone in insisting is "the most important theater in America." Before he took the reins at the Public, Oskar served as Artistic Director of the Trinity Repertory Theater in Providence and directed the 1999 Bread Loaf production of *Henry V*. David Henry Hwang has said that Oskar is "the best script adviser in the country"; Tony Kushner called him "[the man] who called *Angels in America* into being...and brought it safely home." Everyone is enthusiastically invited to attend both the lecture and the reception afterwards in Treman.

Join the Clubb for *Light Leaves*

After hearing about theater at tonight's Drew Lecture, you'll have the chance to experience it firsthand tomorrow evening, when members of the Acting Ensemble will present a staged reading of Dare Clubb's play *Light Leaves* at 7:30 in the Barn. Everyone is invited to attend.

Please, Sir, I Want Some More!

Good things come in threes, so after tonight's Drew Lecture and tomorrow's performance of *Light Leaves*, we'll have another fantastic Barn event on Wednesday night, when Michael Armstrong will read from his enormously successful recent book, *Children Writing Stories*.

With three events in three days, it's understandable if on Thursday evening, students depart dinner with a glazed expression, murmuring "Must...go...to...Barn...something...happening...in... Barn..." If this indeed happens, the researchers from the Olive Loaf School of Psychology will declare Stage 1 of the conditioning process a success. We would then move on to Stage 2, which involves subliminally convincing everyone to work the phrase "all that and a bag of chips" into their next critical essay.

Blue's Crews

Sunday's popular Blue Parlor reading featured Lynda Healey (the memoir "Agnes and Me and Nancy"), Jess Buchsbaum (the personal narrative "Montreal"), Chris Marks (a short story, "A Wonderful Journey"), and Daniel Trosclair (four poems, including "Blame" and "Kamikaze Cuckoo"). If you'd like to be one of this Sunday's readers, snag one of the available slots at the Front Desk.

Blue Parlor Becomes Gray Area

Deidre Cuffee-Gray sends word that Bread Loaf seniors should meet in the Blue Parlor this afternoon at 5 to discuss class gift and after-party ideas. And if any seniors have ideas for more senior "getting to know you moments" (swim a lake, hike to somewhere, beers anywhere), send them to the "Senior 06" folder on BreadNet.

Madrigalists Enjoy Car Tunes

The Madrigalists will rehearse the Cars' "You Might Think" and the rest of their summer repertoire this afternoon at 5 in the Barn. If Friday's Coffeehouse performances inspired you to do a little singing of your own, you're welcome to add your voice to the choir.

Writers' Blocks

If you'd prefer constructing to deconstructing, check out the LEGO Brick Blast this weekend at Middlebury Union High School this weekend. The festival includes competitions, demonstrations by LEGO building experts, vendors, and food. Hours are Sat. 10-6 and Sun. 10-4; admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children, and \$15 for families.

Giant Puppets Necessitate Warrenning

The Bread & Puppet Cardboard Circus, featuring larger-than-life puppets, comes to the Warren School on Wednesday from 5:00-7:30 p.m. The program features a puppet performance, Michael Hardin's jazz music, and food from Flatbread, the Good To Go fatty wagon, and Ben & Jerry's. All proceeds benefit the Warren kindergarten/pre-school after school program's scholarship fund and operational costs. Admission is \$5.00 per person or \$20.00 per family.

Internet Outage Might T-1 Off

The T-1 line that forms the link between Bread Loaf and the main campus network (and thus, the Internet) has been experiencing a significant packet error rate for the past couple days, making performance even slower than usual. Verizon engineers will be troubleshooting, and hopefully repairing, the problem today; this may result in transient interruptions of service.

Verse Case Scenario

The Bread Loaf Office has not received even **one** entry for this year's Poetry Contest, and with the July 27th deadline nearing, they're worried. The last time the contest ended without a single submission, David Huddle and Paul Muldoon took the \$1500 in prize money to Burlington and blew it all on Cristal at a trendy *terza rima* club, and Elaine's not about to let *that* happen again. So submit one or two of your own poems, maximum 40 lines each, to the Bread Loaf Office by next Thursday; remember that your names should not appear on the poems, but on an attached piece of paper.

Waiting for Good Dough

Waiter Andrew Mezeske is looking for a sub for the Commencement Banquet. Talk to Andrew if you're interested in helping him out and pocketing a cool \$20 from Shannon and Steve for your assistance (in addition, one presumes, to whatever additional funds you can extort from Andrew).

Campus Becomes Dead Zone Friday

Plan ahead, because when classes pause for Friday's midterm break, so do many other Bread Loaf services. The Office and Cornwall Clinic will be closed on Friday, and there will be no van run downtown. The Bookstore will be closed on Friday; remember that used textbooks will not be available after Thursday. Walk-through meals will begin Thursday night.

There will be no *Crumb* on Friday, a lowering of the journalistic veil of silence that provides Bread Loafers an additional night to indulge in romantic interludes or other scandalous behavior without fear that their escapades will be front-page news the following day.

Visit Dixie Without Leaving Vermont

There will be a BLTN Meeting tomorrow from 5:15 to 6:00 p.m. in Barn 1.

Six Get Carrie-d Away, Call Nobelist a Liar

Jay Crawford-Kelly, the Alaska Babes in the Woods, School of English alum and current School of Italian student Kartik Balasubramanian, Chris Benson, Team Broderon/Beveridge, and Team Pederson/McMillan all knew that Isaac Bashevis Singer once said, "When I was a little boy, they called me a liar, but now that I am grown up, they call me a writer." Today's author's been called a lot of things, including some not-so-nice things from the Establishment, but his sales figures speak for themselves. If you know who he is, e-mail the *Crumb* by tomorrow morning to be crowned Trivia King.

Courtesy of the Vermont Tourism Bored

Some of you already have best-laid plans for Long Weekend (trips to Boston or Burlington or Montreal), but what about the dozens of Bread Loafers who, preoccupied with paper writing, haven't had a spare second to think about how to spend their three days off? Help them avoid rash decisions and regrettable destinations by coming up with the **Top Ten Least Popular Tourist Attractions in Vermont** and sending them to the *Crumb* by *Thursday* morning. The final list will appear in that day's issue as a public service to those who might otherwise find themselves spending Saturday afternoon at the Morgan Horse Farm's "Manure-Rama" exhibit.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 16

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Trivia

Which author was born in Calcutta on this day in 1811?

Events

Soccer
5:00, Field

BLTN
5:15-6, Barn 1

Light Leaves
7:30 & 9:00,
Barn 1

Dinner Menu

BBQ meatloaf with corn & cheddar mashed potatoes or mushroom ravioli; green beans; napoleons for dessert.

Weather

Today:
Scattered storms,
78/54.

Tomorrow:
Sunny, 81/56.

Thursday:
Partly cloudy,
80/63.

Dare to be Different: *Light Leaves* Kicks Off '06 Summer Theater

Last night, Oskar Eustis inspired Bread Loaf with his passionate insistence on the unique rewards of the theater; tonight, Dare Clubb will show everyone exactly what theater can be and do. At 7:30 and again at 9:00 in Barn 1, he'll present a staged reading of his work-in-progress, *Light Leaves*. The play is a collection of characters and scenes governed by the poetic form of the villanelle and featuring Acting Ensemble members Stephen Thorne, Angela Brazil, Jonathan Fried, Chris Hutchison, Elizabeth Bunch, and Jennifer Williams.

Dare's play *Oedipus* received an Obie award in 1999; he has taught at Iowa, Princeton, Barnard, and the New School in addition to Bread Loaf and served as playwright-in-residence at Juilliard. Everyone is invited to attend one of tonight's two performances.

Midd Night's Children

Tomorrow night, Bread Loaf will be entertained and enlightened by beloved faculty member Michael Armstrong. Although he's a master storyteller in his own right, tomorrow Michael will focus on the tales told in his recent book *Children Writing Stories* and share what such stories tell us about imagination and narrative. Everyone is invited.

Closings Will Make Peaceful Campus

Remember that the administrative side of Bread Loaf pretty much shuts down on Friday. The Office and Bookstore will be closed, there will be no van run, and meals will shift to the weekend schedule a day early. The pastoral side of Bread Loaf (Adirondack chairs, sunsets) will, thankfully, remain in operation all weekend, although repeated requests for the deerfly union to cease and desist have been met only with insistent cries of "blood, more blood, must have blood."

Lovestruck Loafers Go for *Broke*

Emboldened by suddenly coming into possession of a single when their roommates skip town, many Bread Loafers see Long Weekend as a great chance for romance. And what better way to fan the flames than by watching a poignant love story? Head to the Barn on Friday night for a 9 p.m. showing of *Brokeback Mountain*; afterwards, when the moment seems ripe, trot out your time-tested pick-up line ("Want to come back to my room and have a look at 'Our Mutual Friend'?") and hope for the best.

Bost., en Masse?

Your friendly waiter Christopher Dickinson would love to ride to Boston with you (yes, *you*) anytime after breakfast on Thursday. He'll gladly pay for gas and contribute his fair share of witty and erudite banter.

Senior Class Seeks to Wrap Up Gift

If you're graduating in August (or assume you'll be as long as you don't turn in a *Cosmopolitan* article on "37 Erogenous Zones You Didn't Know You Had" in lieu of your Comic Journey final paper), check your BreadNet Seniors mailbox for final voting information regarding the Senior Class gift proposals. The polls will close at midnight tomorrow night; send your vote to Ileana Jimenez and Shannon Hipp.

The Place to BLTN

Dixie and Judy have raised the semaphore flags over the Inn West Seminar Room; I think I've correctly decoded them as saying "Bread Loaf Teacher Network Meeting, 5:15, Barn 1." It's either that or "Frigate three points off the starboard bow, bearing NW under full sail, man guns and pursue," which means Dixie's been playing Internet Battleship again.

Waive Goodbye Before Weekend

Those few students who have yet to return their blue waiver forms to the Office need to do so as soon as possible. Otherwise, Elaine will indicate to Chef Jim and the waitstaff that you specifically requested the "normal institutional swill" meal plan.

T Has Elliot?

A young boy and a swaddled alien aboard a flying bicycle aren't silhouetted against the full moon on the winning T-shirt design of Front Desk staff member Peter Newton, but it's still a gorgeous image of the night sky above Bread Loaf Mountain. A sample of the finished product will soon be on display outside the Dining Hall. Though you will almost certainly be overcome with desire for a shirt of your own upon seeing the design, we ask that you proceed to the Front Desk to order yours in the orderly fashion of Shakespeare in the Park attendees, not the inelegant stampede we see every summer when the shipment of the Men of Annex Swimsuit Calendar arrives.

Become One Acquainted with the Night

At this year's Frost Séance, which will take place (weather permitting) tomorrow night at 10, you might see a spectral figure prowling the meadow by the Frost Cabin, gesturing wildly and muttering threateningly that you're on his property. It's probably just Paul Muldoon, swatting away the deerflies and still bitter over being temporarily evicted from his usual summer abode, the Noble Farmhouse. He'll settle down eventually and read a Frost poem or two to begin the evening. Bring your own favorite bit of verse to share by flashlight, although the ghost of Frost informs me that if he hears *one more time* how "The Road Not Taken" is such a *great* metaphor for life, there'll be hell to pay.

AC on Limited Schedule

Yesterday this headline might have incited rioting if all the commotion wouldn't have made everyone even sweatier, but today's cooler temperatures make for cooler heads. The refreshingly arctic Apple Cellar will cut back its hours this weekend; it'll close at 10:30 on Thursday night and open from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. on Friday. Saturday and Sunday hours will be the normal ones.

Fair Number of Correct Guesses

Carrie Jewell, Team Beveridge/Broderson, Steve Dalvet, Tim Coy, Chris Benson, the Bocce Lobby, the self-proclaimed Trivia Monarchy, the Alaska Babes in the Woods, Team Pederson/McMillan, and Jay Crawford-Kelly knew Stephen King to be the author whose writing day ends at "beer o'clock." Today's author, and the clues to his or her identity, are a shade more obscure, but if you know the answer, e-mail the *Crumb* by tomorrow morning, then boast about seeing your name in that day's issue.

Sites Unseen

If you open up your sugaring operation to the public, or slap a pedestrian walkway down your biggest commercial street, or offer tours of your brewery, sure, you'll reel in the tourists. But what if you don't have a sugaring operation, or a commercial street, or a brewery? What if all you have is a chinchilla who can play the ukulele (badly), or the state's biggest pile of mulch, or a potato that vaguely resembles Ed McMahon? Then you're forced to make do with what you have, and frequently – as was the case with Ed Brown's plan to offer glass-bottomed boat tours of John's Pond – such enterprises languish or founder completely. This week we're looking for ideas for the **Top Ten Least Popular Tourist Attractions in Vermont** as a way to pay tribute to these harebrained schemes without having to pay actual money to visit them. Submit your ideas to the *Crumb* by Thursday morning; the list will appear in that day's issue.

Shelved Plans for Long Weekend?

For some of you, there's no better way to spend a Saturday afternoon than poring over quaint and curious volumes of forgotten lore at a used bookstore. Here are the best local establishments for hunting down desirable and elusive titles:

In Middlebury: **Otter Creek Used Books** (Main St.) has the bigger overall selection, including extensive and inexpensive paperback fiction. **Alley Beat Bookshop** (Frog Hollow) carries a tidy, comprehensive, mostly recent, and more scholarly inventory with particular strengths in poetry, drama, and literary criticism. Just north of town on Route 7, **Monroe Street Books** has an incredible selection of modern firsts (priced accordingly) and rare finds, along with good \$1 and \$2 tables.

In Brandon: The **Briggs Carriage Bookstore** sells new books on the first floor, but you can find lots of familiar titles priced to move on the remainder and sale shelves upstairs and outside (if it's sunny). Plus there's a coffee bar, the Ball & Chain Café, upstairs. The **Brandon Library** shelves its discarded texts and untold thousands of donated books in a somewhat labyrinthine basement; no guarantee that you'll find the particular book you're looking for, but with a vast selection going as cheaply as 25 cents, it's worth a look.

In Whiting: You'd have to be a dedicated bookhound to find yourself in Whiting, but **Bulwagga Books** is worth the trip. Lots of current fiction and American history on offer.

In Burlington: The **Crow Bookstore** and **North Country Books** are neighbors at the north end of Church Street and nearly identical in their impressively thorough offerings in current fiction and history. Good-as-new paperbacks generally sell for half the cover price. North Country's cavernous basement shop also features vintage movie posters, antique maps, and lots more.

THE CRUMB GOES TABLOID

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 17

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Trivia

Which writer died 632 years ago today, but not before introducing a new poetic form?

Events

Director's Reception

5:00, West Lawn

Ultimate 7:00

Michael
Armstrong
7:30, Barn

Frost Séance
10, Noble Farm

Senior Gift
Voting Deadline
Midnight

Dinner Menu

Mojo pork or
sweet potato
enchilada; wild
rice medley;
Darren's grilled
vegetables;
blueberry pie.

Weather

Today:

Sunny, 80/54.
Chance of alien
attack at 7 (see
UFO article).

Tomorrow:

Mostly sunny,
82/62.

Friday:

Scattered storms,
75/57.

KIND TO CHILDREN – BUT VICIOUS TO CERTAIN ADULTS WHICH IS THE REAL MICHAEL ARMSTRONG?

Professor Michael Armstrong, who will read from his new work *Children Writing Stories* in the Barn tonight at 7:30, has devoted much of his professional career to encouraging children to write stories and understanding what those narratives tell us about imagination and storytelling. His kindness, wisdom, and boundless energy have made him a beloved figure to generations of Bread Loafers, and tonight's reading promises to be a wonderful celebration of the power stories can wield.

How difficult it is, then, to square this benevolent persona with the figure Armstrong cuts on the bocce pitch. Not content to rely solely upon his marksmanship for victory, Armstrong has been known to intimidate opponents by faking powerful and illegal overhand throws at their private regions and by liberally dispensing unprintable "Your Mother" remarks as his opponents prepare to throw – gross breaches of the sportsmanship for which this gentleman's game has long been known. Even in victory, Armstrong remained unrepentantly scornful, eschewing the traditional post-match handshake in favor of the brusque declaration that "they deserved a good stomping, and by heaven they got a good stomping."

Staff, Students, Large Objects Vanish INTO THIN AIR!!!

Local authorities are at a loss to explain Friday's sudden disappearance of various integral members of the Bread Loaf staff. "Thursday, they're here – then on Friday, not a trace. I'm stumped," said easily stumped Inn resident Marcia Miller. The Office staff, including Elaine Lathrop, and the Bookstore seem to be the areas most heavily affected. Police are unsure whether the disappearance of the downtown shuttle on Friday is related.

TRIVIA QUESTION SOLVED – BY USING ESP!!!

"It just came to me!" "One moment I didn't know it, and the next I did!" "I looked it up on Google, and all of a sudden it was like I could see the right answer!" Tim Coy, Team B&B, the Alaska Babes in the Woods, the Exiles on Main St., Team Pederson/McMillan, and Jay-Crawford Kelly all cited various phenomena to explain their knowledge that Thackeray was the answer to yesterday's trivia question.

Jim Maddox's correct answer was ruled inadmissible by the Trivia Tribunal; claiming to be the reincarnated spirit of Thackeray gave him a patently unfair advantage, the judges deemed.

FRONT DESK STAFFER TURNS NIGHT INTO DAY!!!

This Godlike ability belongs to Peter Newton, who with only a few strokes of his pen turned his T-shirt design from an evening scene into a brilliant yellow-and-green daytime vista of the sun over Bread Loaf Mountain. Scores of believers have congregated around the T-shirt design outside the Dining Hall and at the Front Desk, where they order their own shirt and fall prostrate at finding themselves in the presence of the Great Peter.

UFOS SPOTTED HOVERING OVER MEADOW

Panicked residents have reported seeing mysterious, disc-shaped objects in the sky above the Bread Loaf meadow. "This thing was in the air, and the students were running around like crazy, throwing their hands in the air, like they'd been brainwashed or something," Birch resident Sean McCarthy, who witnessed the scene from his window, commented. Elizabethan drama and alien intelligence authority Heather James warned, "The fact that the flying objects appear consistently during Ultimate Frisbee games means that they have been watching us



Only known photo of possible UFO. Student in foreground appears to be in grave danger, possibly caught in tractor beam. Note other students wisely fleeing scene.

for who knows how long. They know our schedule. It's only a matter of time before they mount an all-out assault. Watch the documentary film *Independence Day* if you doubt what they're capable of." Interim Director Stepto urged Bread Loafers to remain calm as he carried cases of bottled water and armloads of various non-perishable items from the Dining Hall's dry storage to his basement in Fritz.

Gunfire Across Campus! Have Duels Returned to Loaf?

Faye Christensen warns Bread Loafers that they will hear gunfire between now and Wednesday. It's just for the rehearsals and performances of *Mud*, she claims, and not an indication that the official moratorium on settling interpretive differences in the classroom by "demanding satisfaction" has been lifted. That prohibition remains in effect, as casualties resulting from pistols at ten paces made it extremely difficult for Chef Jim to predict mealtime numbers accurately.

"I Lost 48 Pounds – On Cashews and Gin!"

Find Out More About "Director's Reception Diet" – Today, 5, West Lawn

Senior Class to Construct Grand Hyatt Bread Loaf with Class Donations

Industry sources reveal that Senior Class Fundraisers Ileana Jimenez and Shannon Hipp have discussed the possibility that future Bread Loaf students will be accommodated at a five-star Grand Hyatt hotel. Current estimates put the Senior Class gift approximately \$48,999,000 short of the \$49,000,000 cost of the project.

"This is why the seniors need to log on to their BreadNet accounts, look in their Seniors folder for details of our class gift proposals, and vote on their preferences by tonight," Shannon commented.

"Proper funding is the only obstacle between us and the satisfaction of knowing that the next generation of Bread Loaf students have access to a state-of-the-art fitness center, a day spa, and all the other amenities you expect from a Grand Hyatt," Ileana told the *Crumb*. "If just one senior – just one – writes that check for \$48,999,000, then our dream can become a reality."

Hipp and Jimenez rushed to assure Bread Loafers that they would make every effort to retain Chef Jim, and that locally produced Lake Champlain chocolates would be placed on pillows nightly.

"Top Ten" List Often Contains More Than Ten Items

"I Never Learned to Count," *Crumb* Editor Tearfully Confesses

Talk radio hosts and pundits across the country have branded *Crumb* Editor Jon Freeman as a hypocrite and a solicitor of bribes, after a bipartisan study revealed that the paper's weekly Top Ten lists frequently contain more than ten items. Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-Maryland) said, "I mean, look at last week, where there were *thirty-nine* television shows on the list! And you tell me he's not taking money under the table from people who want their name in print. It's greed writ large, pure and simple. Had he published Top Tens with twelve or thirteen items, it's doubtful anyone would have picked up on it. But it's hard to imagine that there aren't backroom dealings going on when you're almost four times over budget."

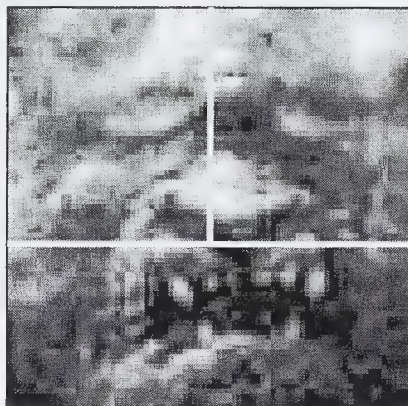
Freeman denied any wrongdoing and claimed that the allegations that the Waitstaff provides him with extra dessert in exchange for favorable consideration are unfounded.

A consumer watchdog group promises to scrutinize the next list, **Top Ten Least Popular Tourist Attractions in Vermont**, when it appears in tomorrow's *Crumb*.

"I SAW NET EVIL": FACE OF SATAN APPEARS IN CLAY OF TENNIS COURT!!!

Wimbleloaf organizers insist that the recent appearance of something resembling the face of Beelzebub himself in the ball marks and footprints of one of the tennis courts will not dissuade them from putting together a tournament this year.

"Look, all it has to do is rain, and the Dark Lord will be banished forever," Ed Brown said. "You can't let a little thing like the temporary ascendance of Mephistopheles get in the way of Wimbleloaf." Signup sheets for the two brackets – "Less Experienced" and "More Experienced" – have been posted outside the Dining Hall.



Kushner, Updike, Morrison to Read at Blue Parlor? "No Chance," Say Organizers

The fact that only one person has signed up so far for this Sunday's Blue Parlor reading has led to rampant and completely unjustified speculation that the "empty" slots would be filled by literary lions Tony Kushner, John Updike, and Toni Morrison. "Look, for the last time, that's just not going to happen," this reporter was told by a Blue Parlor organizer "We still need Bread Loafers who are willing to read from their work!" The theory that the three prize-winning authors were in Vermont could not be refuted as of press time.

CAN DANCE MUSIC AFFECT YOUR PAPERS???

Some students say "Yes" – and it's ruined their Bread Loaf careers!

"I had to read *Persuasion* for my Jane Austen class, but after the dance I literally couldn't distinguish between Anne Elliot and Missy Elliot," a despondent Steve Suomi said, blinking back tears. "I ended up writing that Anne's persuasions are deliberate constructs that occlude but do not erode her empowered stance that she is '5'2 and wear my jeans real tight / My curves they swerve so superb / My word is my word and I came to serve.' I can't turn *that* in!" And Professor Jeffrey Shoulson says that he's received at least eight papers that mysteriously conflate *Paradise Lost* with "Paradise City," although he notes some "really intriguing echoes of the Edenic myth – after all, Axl does say 'Oh, won't you please, take me home' to an unnamed and unresponsive God-figure."

Acoustics experts theorize that when played at precisely the right volume to an audience whose synaptic pathways have been temporarily altered by the consumption of beer, certain songs can inextricably embed themselves into the human consciousness. "How else are we to explain the irritating persistence of an otherwise worthless melody such as 'Barbie Girl'?" states Dr. Emil Farnblat of the Council on Subliminal Research.

The Director's Assistants say there are no plans to cancel this weekend's dance, because "that would be really stupid."

STUDENTS, FACULTY ENGAGE IN CULTLIKE NIGHTTIME RITUAL AT FROST FARM

Questions surround the so-called "Frost Séance" (tonight, 10 p.m.), the ritualistic gathering of Bread Loafers at the Frost Cabin in the dark of night to read Frost poems. Masquerading as an eager acolyte to this group of practitioners of dark arts, a *Crumb* reporter was able to ask Séance Supervisor Paul Muldoon about their mission:

What is it that you do? Well, we read Frost poems as a kind of tribute to the man, you see. You bring along a Frost poem you'd like to read, like "Acceptance" or "The Ax-Helve," and we sit in a big circle and read 'em by flashlight. It's not really that spooky, unless you do manage to summon a ghost.

Have you, in fact, raised Frost from the dead? No, not yet, but we're getting closer every year. Once we thought we saw him swinging from a birch tree nearby, but it turned out to be Asher. A few years back we think we had William Cullen Bryant for a second. Then last year, we managed to bring back the spirit of Wallace Stevens. Granted, his style of poetry is different from Frost's, but at least we're in the right historical period now.

Can I come? How do I get there? Sure, you can come. Drive yourself up to the Farm, or there's a shuttle leaving the Front Desk at 9:45. isn't there?

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 18

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Trivia

Which one of Shakespeare's plays was entered on the Stationers' Register this week in 1598?

Events

Thursday
Gilmore 9:00

Friday
Brokeback 9:00

Saturday
Block Blast 10-6

Dance 9-1

Sunday
Block Blast 10-4
Ultimate 4:00
Blue Parlor 7:30

Dinner Menu

Steak tips, mushroom, and Guinness pie with horseradish mashed potatoes or Spanish vegetable paella; ginger pecan cake.

Weather

Today:
Scattered storms,
78/54.

Tomorrow:
Sunny, 81/56.

Sat./Sun.:
Partly cloudy,
80/63.

Waiters Expand Beverage Options

The Waitstaff sponsors tonight's Gilmore reading, and they *promise* that they will not flick the lights and shoo you away after thirty-five minutes this time. They'll supply the requisite *Ellen* excerpt, the esteemed faculty reader, and a certain golden beverage unavailable during regular meals, and they invite you to linger long into the night. There's talk of marshmallows being made available, too, so you might want to bring a pointy stick to toast a few or just to fend off the unwanted advances of a would-be paramour.

The Meaning of Space

The average 27% increase in available floor space per dancer is just one of the benefits of attending this weekend's Barn dance; you can really throw yourself into your disco routine, knowing that you're far less likely to poke a neighboring dancer in the eye. There are other advantages, too. Shorter conga lines reduce the risk of whiplash, and the Goldfish®-to-person ratio is much closer to the 48:1 level recommended by Pepperidge Farm.

Had a Rocky Mountain Romance?

If you'd prefer to *watch* a romance take shape in a gorgeous mountain setting, head to the Barn tomorrow night for a showing of *Brokeback Mountain*. If you'd prefer to *be involved* in making a romance take shape in a gorgeous mountain setting, start by visiting BreadNet's brand-new "Litter Mates" live singles chat line. Please deposit \$3.99 in the wooden box in the Apple Cellar for the first five minutes and \$1.99 for each additional minute.

Huddle Serves Up Monday's Reading

The next in this summer's parade of faculty readers is the illustrious David Huddle, who'll share selections from his work on Monday in the Barn at 7:30. The author of *The Story of a Million Years* says that the reading won't take anywhere near that long.

Man Hath No Music in Himself

Due to the imminent long weekend exodus of many of its members, Jon Freeman has cancelled this afternoon's Madrigalists rehearsal. You still might hear the joyful strains of the Soup Dragons' "I'm Free" resounding across campus this afternoon, but that's just the way work-weary students celebrate having three whole days off.

Blue Parlor Reading Fourth Coming?

Ryan McClure, Teresa Schwarz, and Courtney Giknis will read from their work in the Blue Parlor on Sunday at 7:30; if you'd like to be the Ringo to their John, Paul, & George, the parsley to their sage, rosemary, and thyme, there's one slot still open on the Front Desk signup sheet.

Block Party

This weekend's LEGO Brick Blast at Middlebury Union High School features professional LEGO artists, amateur competitions, food, vendors, and other entertainment. You're better off just enjoying yourself at the show, not deluding yourself into thinking that your professor will think that a scale model of Bleak House makes a fantastic final project.

Scramble Not Rough Going

If you like everything about golf except the tall grass, sand traps, and watery graves in which you're constantly landing, the 5th Usually-Annual Bread Loaf Scramble (Sunday, August 6) is for you. Since your teammates all tee off, then choose only the best result and all hit again from that point, bad shots don't count. The Scramble also provides a valuable chance to "role-play," as you can imagine the helpless little spheroid to be whatever demanding professor or inscrutable poststructuralist critic is frustrating you, then smash the bejeezus out of it without fear of the consequences that would follow were you to enact such desires on the guilty parties directly. You can sign up outside the Dining Hall.

Crumb Features "Off Set" Printing

Faye Christensen warns parents and students that while the set for *Big Love* is very attractive to the curious (especially the young and curious), it can also be very dangerous, what with falling off the rake, slipping on the turf, drowning in the pool. Please stay off.

What, Are There Masques?

That's the question costume-seekers are asking as they plunder Vermont's thrift shops and dollar stores in search of amusing and original outfits for next Saturday's Suppressed Desires masquerade ball. Contrive a clever costume for this annual dance-cum-gold mine of psychological insight, or don't dress up at all and risk having your normal clothes mistaken for some inglorious disguise (black bear, two-dollar hooker, Dylan Thomas after eighteenth whiskey).

Tourney Organizers Guilty of Racket Tiering

Wimbleloaf signups will continue through this weekend, with a match schedule to appear early next week. Please note that this year's brackets are not gender-specific, but experience-based; the organizers trust that the "Less Experienced" bracket will not be infiltrated by an expert player seeking the affirmation his professors have thus far denied him or the empty satisfaction of deceiving a potential employer into thinking "Wimbleloaf Champion" is an impressive thing to see on a resume.

Return of Courts Means Racket in Library

The gentle "thwock" of a tennis ball being batted back and forth across the net is as much a part of Bread Loaf's background noise as the logging trucks rumbling by on 125, but tennis players are reminded that pronounced court-side conversations can be distracting to students in the Library.

Of course, if someone's blatantly ignoring the "No Typing" policy on the first floor, tennis players can chat to their hearts' content, as the Davison denizens will be too busy strangling the keyboard criminal with the mouse cord to take umbrage at the volume of your voices. Go to the Apple Cellar to word-process or e-mail.

Runners Get Charlie Orr's by End of Summer

Just a little early notification that the annual Charlie Orr Memorial 5K Fun Run has been scheduled for Saturday, August 5th. There will be Otter Creek and potato chips available at the dance if your training regimen specifies that you begin carb-loading now.

The Shipping News

Copies of *Youth-Powered Video*, the Educational Video Center's textbook on bringing documentary filmmaking into the classroom, are now available in the Bookstore for the reduced price of \$75 (cover price is \$150; the book comes with two DVD's). By the time you read this, the Bookstore will be closed until Monday, but perhaps you're so desperate for a copy that you'll gather provisions and camp out on the back steps of the Annex in the hopes of being the first one in the door on Monday.

All the available copies of Michael Armstrong's *Children Writing Stories* have been snapped up, but the Bookstore will add your name to a waiting list and notify you if they're able to secure more copies of Michael's understandably popular text.

Petrarchans Saw In It

Three groups – the Back of Birch and teams Beveridge/Broderson and Pederson/McMillan – knew that Petrarch was the answer to yesterday's trivia question. Jay Crawford-Kelly, Tish McGonegal, and Jim Maddox, feeling that this kind of allegiance to a brain trust diminishes individual glory, got it right all on their own.

Today's question should narrow down the possible right answers considerably and enable you to make at least an educated guess; anyone who submits *Long Day's Journey into Night* or *The Sisters Rosenzweig* deserves the ridicule they'll get in Monday's issue.

Top Ten Lists Weekend "Get Away"s

The *Crumb* Bum laughed at many of the submissions to this week's Top Ten list. And he'll laugh all the way to the bank, too, after Chambers of Commerce from St. Albans to Bennington lined his pockets with cash in exchange for the promise that *their* towns wouldn't appear anywhere in the

Top Ten Least Popular Tourist Attractions in Vermont

24. Barn East, Sunday morning (OX)
23. Burlington Coat Factory (OX)
22. The Fatta the Lan' Organic Farm (SWCH)
21. Wuthering Bites Mosquito Petting Zoo (WS)
20. Pick-N-Pay Crabapple Orchard (DA)
19. Dorkosphere! A Human Experiment (well, it worked last time...) (SWCH)
18. Road Kill Culinary Institute of Vermont (GP)
17. Purifying John's Pond Mud Facial (PL)
16. Former Bread Loaf Directors Wax Museum (DA)
15. The Meatloaf School of Mathematics Annual Bean Cookout (EMS)
14. Dueling Banjos Waterpark (DA)
13. Allergy Gulch (OX)
12. The Vermont Teddy Roethke Factory (SWCH)
11. Treman Porch: Robert Frost Passed Out Here (DA)
10. Old Piney Sawmill and Lumberyard (DA)
9. The Ben & Jerry's Angioplasty and Liposuction Center at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital (AS)
8. East Townsend Rabid Animal Petting Zoo (GP)
7. The Morgan Horse Fertility Clinic and Day Spa (AS)
6. The Brandon Museum of Abject Social Inequity (AS)
5. Vermont Bare Teddy Factory (DA)
4. Howard Dean's Screamorama Funhouse (SWCH)
3. Cabot's Warm Wheel of Roquefort (AS)
2. New Hampshire (OX)
1. Vermont Teddy Bear Co.'s Real Bear Exhibit and Blood Drive (GP)

Current standings: Director's Assistants (DA) 25; OXymorons (OX) 21; Stuart Whittle's Crunk Hip (SWCH) 16; Waitstaff (WS) 15; Apple Seedlings (AS) 9; Front Desk (FD) 5; Exiles on Main Street (EMS) 4; "GP" (GP) 4; Phoebe Lewis (PL) 3; Off-Campus Exiles (OCE) 3; Kilgore Trout (KT) 2; Men of Annex (MOA) 2; Team Slobodan Milosevic (TSM) 1; Ileana Jimenez (IJ) 1.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 19

Monday, July 24, 2006

Trivia

Which author, born this week in 1802, kept a menagerie of pets that included three monkeys he named after literary critics?

Events

Madrigalists
5:00, Barn

David Huddle Reading
7:30, Barn

Dinner Menu

Grilled mahi with spring onion glaze or polenta chips with sun-dried tomatoes, pine nuts, and cheese medley; wild rice with mushrooms; smoky braised greens.

Weather

Today:
Partly cloudy,
79/58.

Tomorrow:
Scattered storms,
82/61.

Wednesday:
Partly cloudy,
81/64.

Huddle Reading Must Get Ears of Entire Campus (Nearly)

The Monday series of faculty readings continues tonight when novelist, poet, and fearsome volleyer David Huddle reads from his work at 7:30 in the Barn. David is the author of *Grayscale*, *The Story of a Million Years*, *La Tour Dreams of the Wolf Girl*, *Only the Little Bone*, and several other novels, short story collections, and volumes of poetry. Part of *The Story of a Million Years* appeared in *The Best American Short Stories*; later, the novel was named a *Los Angeles Times* Best Book of the Year.

When asked whether he'd be reading fiction or poetry, David wouldn't say – indicating that a new genre, such as memoir or freestyle rap, might be in the offing. David did say that the material would be unsuitable for children of an impressionable age (which, come to think of it, doesn't rule out freestyle rap). After the reading, David vows to take the main driveway at a dead sprint if need be, both to welcome you at the door of Treman for the post-reading reception and to grab a Copper Ale before they're all gone. Everyone is invited to both reading and reception.

Count of Mounting Crisp Pros

A half dozen of Bread Loaf's best tennis players have already claimed spots in the "more experienced" bracket for this summer's late-developing Wimbleloaf tournament, but there are still a few openings for more advanced players, as well as plenty of room for relative novices in the "less experienced" bracket. The signup sheets will be taken down after lunch, so add your name soon if you'd like to join in.

Playing in Mud a Bit Dirty

The themes and language of Maria Irene Fornes' *Mud* may make the play inappropriate for children, but everyone else is invited to this week's performances of this wrenching story of three people struggling to rise from the literal and figurative mud of their environment. Marisa Ortega, BL student and director of *Mud*, summarized the play this way: "Mae hungers for knowledge. She has lived with Lloyd, a pig farmer, for much of her life, but she introduces semi-literate Henry into their home when she seeks his help to read a health pamphlet for Lloyd. After Mae learns that knowledge and communications deliver power, she attempts to leave Lloyd and Henry, but faces tragic consequences."

Mud will be performed tomorrow through Thursday evenings at 7:15 p.m. in front of the Tea Cabin (across the tennis courts from the Library).

Important Notes

With next week's concert series rapidly approaching, it's important that all members of the Madrigalists attend this afternoon's rehearsal (5:00, Barn) to work on our repertoire / a cappella version of VH1's *I Love the 80's*.

No More Hot T After Lunch Today

Advance sales for the Peter Newton-designed 2006 BLSE T-shirt have been brisk, but if you haven't ordered yours yet from the Front Desk, you'll have to act fast – the deadline is 2:00 today.

Suppressed Desires a Nietzschean "Eternal Recurrence"

Unquestionably, Nietzsche was anticipating the annual Suppressed Desires dance extravaganza when he charged society with the responsibility of preparing an appropriate venue for the "superman." While it's unclear whether anyone will actually come to the dance dressed as Superman, Bread Loaf dreads being caught unprepared for his possible arrival and has asked the Men of Annex and the Coeducational Cohort of Cherry to decorate the Barn and award suitable prizes for the costumes they deem most creative or disturbingly revelatory (physically and/or psychologically). Look for an announcement of this year's theme later this week – in the meantime, plunder and pillage local outfitters this week for whatever you need to "Dress for Suppress."

Faculty Duo Shows Balled Ambition

Team MadArm (Lucy Maddox and Michael Armstrong) scored another resounding bocce victory yesterday, coasting into the final eight and firmly establishing themselves as the team to beat. Teams lying between them and the crown are resorting to the feeble hope that grading papers will strain the mad arms of Team MadArm, but Lucy Maddox has already proclaimed that she'd sooner "just not read a thing and give 'em all A-minuses" than compromise her chance at the title. The tournament organizers urge teams to play their next matches soon so that ESPN2's telecast of the final can come off as planned.

James Completes Work on *The Americans*

You may have caught a glimpse of Jim Maddox this weekend, as he has returned, albeit briefly, from his voyage to New Mexico and Alaska. He reports that the top-shelf margaritas and king salmon continue to meet Bread Loaf's standards of excellence. Incidentally, the students seem to be having a grand time.

James Begins Work on *The Europeans*

Having ascertained that things in Vermont are running smoothly and that the cashew supply will hold out until his early August return, Jim jets off to Oxford today. There, he will assess the contentment of the student body while continuing field work for his definitive study *So Many Pints, So Little Time*. Robert Stepto, playing Grover Cleveland to Jim's Benjamin Harrison, will resume his role as Interim Director after Jim's brief sojourn here.

Last Shot

Ed Brown announces that you'll have to order copies of school photos by Thursday at noon if you'd like to receive them before the summer's over. You can still request copies after that, but postage and handling will run you a little bit extra.

Scramble Format Only Fair Way

Whether you play golf *like* Woods or *from* the woods, you'll enjoy participating in the 6th Bread Loaf Golf Scramble, to be held the morning of Sunday, August 6th. The "scramble" format means that after your whole team tees off, you choose only the best shot – the team hits again from there, chooses the best shot once more, continuing until someone sinks a putt. You can form a team of your own or sign up individually and be provided with teammates; your \$10 entry fee goes toward goodie bags and post-tournament prizes. A signup sheet has been posted outside the Dining Hall. See Jon Freeman if you have questions.

Urine for a Surprise with Bedwetting Play

Noam Osband has written a short kids' play entitled "The Boy Who Loved Poetry; Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Bedwetting." It's a sweet play about a young bedwetter who, with the help of poetry and a talking dog who used to serve in the military, manages to get over his embarrassment regarding his problem. This play is open for all kids, parents, and any Bread Loaf student who is a kid at heart. It will be a fun, easygoing theater experience with a musical number thrown in for good measure. Everyone interested should attend an informal performance in the Blue Parlor Tuesday at 5:30. For more information, speak to Noam.

Solo Acts Think It's Dumb Asking for Help

Jim Maddox and Jay Crawford-Kelly earn bragging rights as the only two individuals to figure out that *The Merchant of Venice* was the answer to Thursday's trivia question; high honors also to Team Beveridge/Broderson, Team Pederson/McMillan, the Exiles on Main St., and the Alaska Babes in the Woods, all of whom used collective brainpower to pick the right play.

So Wise, So Young, They Say

Week 5 brings with it rising frustrations. You're struggling to put together a class presentation for Language Wars. You've made no headway on your African-American Cultural Forms final paper, despite having assembled in Davison a barricade of secondary sources so high that well-wishers, unable to see over, have taken to tying snacks to Dining Hall napkins and throwing them over the tops of your walls of books in a rescue effort reminiscent of the Berlin Airlift.

It gets worse. Your diversionary games of FreeCell and Spider Solitaire end in defeat after defeat. Today's trivia question stumps you utterly. You weep at not being able to recognize which of the lunch options is "the right answer." Many of the polysyllabic words in today's *Crumb* are unfamiliar and frightening.

You take solace, however, in the confidence that your intellectual shortcomings can be put to good use, and you channel your scholarly frustrations into devising submission after submission for this week's list of the **Top Ten Signs the Faculty Children are Smarter Than You**. Take your time; the final tally won't be published until Friday morning.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 20

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Trivia

*Who is this
supposed to be?*



Events

***The Boy Who
Loved Poetry***
5:30, Blue
Parlor

Mud
7:15, Tea Cabin

Dinner Menu

Summer salad
w/melons;
vegetable paella
or roast beef with
garlic & herb
roasted potatoes;
balsamic roasted
beets and slow-
roasted tomatoes;
Vermont cheddar
apple pie.

Weather

Today:

Scattered storms,
79/61.

Tomorrow:

Scattered storms,
79/63.

Thursday:

Scattered storms,
80/66.

Rain or No Rain, It'll Be a Muddy Night

This evening features the premiere of Maria Irene Fornes's *Mud*, directed by Bread Loaf student Marisa Ortega. *Mud* is the story of a young woman and two men in Depression-era America struggling to rise from the mud of their existence. Fornes was born in Cuba in the midst of hard times; her father was out of work and the family existed on very little income. *Mud* evolved from that experience. Showtime is 7:15 at the Tea Cabin; Marisa advises audience members to bring bug spray and a blanket (there are only about 15 chairs available, but the Tea Cabin's lawn can accommodate many more spectators). *Mud* features Morgan McCrary as Mae, Drake Baer as Henry, Andrew Mahlstedt as Lloyd, and Kellam Ayres on the violin.

Our Clay Courts Not Nadal's House

Citing fatigue and a hectic travel schedule, clay-court wizard and presumptive Wimbleloaf favorite Rafael Nadal has pulled out of this year's tournament, leaving the field wide open. Brackets have been posted outside the Dining Hall; please schedule and play your first match as soon as possible so that a champion can be crowned before the summer ends.

Golf Involves Taking of Tee and Toast

Golfers of all abilities will tee off in the Bread Loaf Scramble on August 6th, then adjourn to Two Brothers for post-round toasts and an awards ceremony. If you're interested in joining us at the Middlebury course next Sunday, sign up outside the Dining Hall. Your \$10 entry fee covers goodie bags and various prizes.

Sandy Sends Sincere Salutations

Legendary BL nurse Sandy Brutkoski wants to "express my appreciation for the particular pleasure I have enjoyed working at the Bread Loaf school for the past many summers. *He who binds to himself a joy / Does the winged life destroy / But he who kisses the joy as it flies / Lives in Eternity's sunrise* (William Blake)." Sandy mentions that she welcomes "non-medical visits south of Brandon, left at Pinewood Gardens, three houses down on McConnell Road."

She's Not Joking Around

Dixie asked for this "one-liner" to go into today's *Crumb*: "**BLTN Meeting, Thursday, July 27, 7-8:30, Barn 1.**" Now, I normally like "one-liners," and Dixie can tell a joke with the best of 'em, but I must be missing something here. Maybe it's all in the delivery. Maybe she'll tell it again at tomorrow's meeting, which is just one more reason BLTN members should go.

Bedwetting Play Contains Dry Humor

Noam Osband invites children, parents, and everyone else to this afternoon's performance of his play *The Boy Who Loved Poetry; Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Bedwetting*. It will be a fun, easy going theater experience with a musical number thrown in for good measure; it's also the only play you're likely to see involving a young bed wetter and a talking dog who used to serve in the military. The performance will begin at 5:30 in the Blue Parlor.

Big Rush for Big Love

Tickets for *Big Love* are free but essential to secure seats for this much-anticipated summer production. They'll be available starting tomorrow at the Front Desk, which once again doubles as Post Office and TicketMaster outlet.

Violent News: More in Today's S*Crumb*

After dinner tonight, there will be a meeting on the porch of the Annex to discuss the possibility of an end-of-the-year rugby match. The whole thing would involve two practices and a game. No experience necessary. To make a real match, the organizers need thirty players (and a ball, the *Crumb* hastens to add, although one presumes this has already been acquired). Talk to Augustine if you have questions.

Hope Is the Thing with Feathers

At least she will be, if she goes to Suppressed Desires as an emu or just needs a boa to complete her flapper costume. Don't worry that your scandalous, provocative, or just plain disturbing Suppressed Desires outfit will earn you notoriety in the *Crumb* for the rest of the summer. What happens at Suppressed Desires stays at Suppressed Desires, so go ahead and unleash those secret longings or yearned-for identities without fear of journalistic reprisals.

Hop On Over

Ryan and Allison are planning to offer a Lindy hop workshop/class on Thursday evening in Barn A or Barn 1. Check future *Crumbs* for further details.

Thursday's Your Last Snap Shot

If you'd like a copy of the all-campus photo to frame as a memory of your Vermont summer, or a picture of the Waitstaff to pin above your microwave as a reminder of pleasant days when your meal options weren't "frozen burrito" or "frozen lasagna," you can stop by the Front Desk to order prints of any of Ed's group photos. If you order before Thursday, you'll receive your print before the end of the summer; after that, you'll have to add a couple of bucks to the cost to cover postage and handling.

Front Desk Staffer Also Runs Local Town

The *Crumb*'s sources have revealed what Ana Silva, in her typical modesty, hasn't told the campus – that she finished an impressive second in her age group at the Goshen Gallop. When she's not on 125 preparing for her August 5th run for the Charlie Orr 5K crown, you can find Ana behind the Front Desk to congratulate her.

Trivia Question Yielded Really Dumas Guesses

The clues "Count of Mounting Crisp Pros" and "Must Get Ears" led Marty McMahon, Steve Dalvet, Team B&B, the Alaska Babes in the Woods, the Exiles on Main St., Bradley Hoffman, Chris Benson, Kartik Balasubramanian, Jay Crawford-Kelly, and Team P&M to guess Alexandre Dumas as the answer to yesterday's trivia question.

No more Mr. Nice Guy, declares the *Crumb* Bum. From now on, expect harder and better-hidden clues as we try to separate the men from the boys, the women from the girls, the men from the girls, the women from the boys, the wheat from the chaff, the cream from the milk, the Trivia Emperor from the Trivia Underlings. If you spotted the clue in one of today's headlines or just think you know who the subject of today's caricature is, email Jon Freeman with your guess by 10 tomorrow.

Top Ten Kids Around This Week

If you sit within earshot of the faculty table at dinnertime you may have noticed that the faculty conversations feel refreshingly ordinary – the usual chitchat about movies and such. Sure, you'll occasionally overhear snatches of conversations about Pindaric odes or *The New York Review of Books* or the "problem of narrative in the modern age," but that's just a sign that Phoebe Lewis or Ben Freedman is holding forth on a controversial article in *New England Quarterly* or the latest fad in poststructuralist critical thought. (Michael Armstrong likes to sit quietly by, accumulating material for his next book, *Children Writing Stories Better Than Yours*.)

If you've noticed other examples of behavior that belongs on the list of the **Top Ten Signs the Faculty Children Are Smarter Than You**, send them to the *Crumb* by Friday morning.

Once Upon a Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 21

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Trivia

Which Brothers Grimm fairy tale features a toad that attaches itself to a boy's face and must be fed by the boy to keep it from feeding on his face?

Events

Director's Reception
5:00, Inn Lawn

Ultimate
7:00, Field

Mud
7:15, Tea Cabin

Trivia Night
8:30, Two Bros.

Dinner Menu

Fried chicken with buttermilk-scallion mashed potatoes or mushroom risotto cake; zucchini with summer batonets and basil; Kentucky spice cake.

Weather

Today:
PM T-storms,
79/62.

Tomorrow:
Scattered storms,
79/65.

Friday:
Scattered storms,
81/64.

The Little Mer-Mud

Jack reached the top of the beanstalk and saw nothing but a huge abandoned house. Prince Charming, his face torn by briars, reached the long-enchanted castle only to find that everyone had apparently awoken and vanished. And the wolf waited idly by the forest path, but no little girl in a red cape ever came round the bend. Where was everybody? Clearly they were all attending tonight's 7:15 performance of Maria Irene Fornes's *Mud*, directed by Bread Loaf student Marisa Ortega and featuring Morgan McCrary, Drake Baer, Andrew Mahlstedt, and Kellam Ayres. Even with giants in the audience, there will still be plenty of room for you to spread a blanket in front of the Tea Cabin and take in this story of struggle in Depression-era America. Please elbow Sleeping Beauty if she so much as yawns during the performance, and don't be insulted by Little Red – without her contacts, she thinks *everyone* looks like her withered old bat of a grandmother.

Students Really Cooking This Week

School of German students Hansel and Gretel, overwhelmed by the restrictiveness of the language pledge, fled the oppressive downtown campus and headed into the deep, dark forest. They hiked for what seemed like days, and as afternoon waned into evening they became so hungry and fatigued they thought they couldn't go on. Just then, they emerged into a green clearing, in which was nestled a pretty yellow-and-green cottage. And what a feast lay before them on the cottage lawn! Hors d'oeuvres, cashews, cheese, and a full bar! Hansel and Gretel clambered over the blue rope and greedily began to stuff themselves with Cabot cheddar and artichoke dip. "Welcome, children, welcome," said Lucy Maddox, plying them with Copper Ales and bacon-wrapped scallops. "Eat all you want. Why, you're positively wasted away! But we'll soon put some meat on those bones," she cooed, thinking to herself how wonderful it would be if one of these nights her waiter could offer her a *third* option for dinner.

Learn How to Bippity Boppity Bop

"But," said Cinderella, "what if the prince asks *me* to dance with him?" "Don't look at me," replied the fairy godmother, thrashing her wand about impatiently. "Wand crashed again. I gotta call Tech Support." Fortunately for Cinderella, she knew about the "super fun, super casual jitterbug and Lindy hop workshop" tomorrow at 7 in Barn A. "Apparently, the basic moves will help you in almost any social dance scene," Cinderella marveled, and so she shook off the glass slippers the fairy godmother had provided for her (heels and open-heeled shoes aren't good for Lindy-hopping), climbed into her old comfortable clothes, grabbed her water bottle, and headed to Barn A. When Ryan played Muddy Waters's "Hoochie Coochie Man," she melted and said to him, "Are *you* my Prince?" "No," he said, "but I have his Greatest Hits CD." Good enough, Cinderella thought, throwing away that tired, overly class-conscious Suppressed Desire with which she began the story in favor of a true Bread Loaf romance.

Someone's Been Walking on *Their* Road!

One summer, walking along Route 125, Jenny Green-Lewis saw three bears. The first bear, which she saw in Week 1, was *too* close to her – about fifty feet – so she froze, and fortunately it went away. The second bear was *too* briefly mentioned in Jenny's report for me to say anything about it here. And the third bear, which she spotted this week, was *just right* there, crossing 125, like the first two she saw, although a little further away. Sorry about the lack of a clear narrative arc and any discernible moral, but Jenny snaps that if you're looking for reports on the temperature of their porridge or the quality of their Posturepedic mattresses, go do it yourself. She's got the wrong color hair for the job, anyway.

Big Love Tickets Generate "Free For All"

Don't take all the lima beans from the salad bar at lunch and try to convince Victoria that they're "magic" just so she'll swap you two seats to Thursday's performance of *Big Love* for them. For the last time, Faye says, tickets are **free**. It's much easier for the Front Desk not to have to deal with the gold coins and gifts-in-kind they used to accept – besides, that goose you gave them two years ago didn't lay a single golden egg, although it *did* produce plenty of what normal geese produce, thank you very much.

Something Fishy About This Story

Once there was a sturgeon who lived in the deep ocean. He lived alone, and his life was a happy one. He grew from a child into an adult, and as time passed his friends began asking him more and more often when he'd find a mate. "Sturgeons don't live forever, you know," they would say, "and you're forty years old. It's time for you to settle down and raise a family." "Oh, thank you," the sturgeon would reply, "but I'm perfectly – " *Sorry? It's not "sturgeon"?* Well, what is it called, then? *The 40-Year-Old WHAT?* Well, I can't make *THAT* into a fairy tale, can I? *This is a family publication!*

Some Day My Prints Will Come

"Picture, picture, on the wall," the evil Queen said, "who is the fairest of them all?" "Why are you asking me and not the mirror?" the All-School photograph asked. "Because I *know* what it'll say, and it depresses me," the Queen responded. "I want to find out whom to scope out at Suppressed Desires Saturday – I'm going as a wizened old crone selling apples!" "Well, these three are quite the hotties," said the picture, light falling on three attractive visages. "Ooh!" the Queen gasped. "I bet I could teach *them* a thing or two! I mean, Snow White may be beautiful, but she thinks 'getting a little dirty in the bedroom' means it's time to pick up the dwarves' socks!"

"True enough, my lady," the picture replied, "but you must hasten if you'd like a copy of me. After tomorrow, you won't be able to get one before the summer ends."

"Thanks for the info," the Queen said, moving on to the Faculty photo and demanding, "Picture, picture, on the wall, who is the fairest of them all? I don't want any harsh graders next summer."

Myers, What Great Points You Have!

Once there was an ugly duckling who went to hear Bread Loaf graduate Richie Myers (Lakota Sioux) give a talk on "Who Are You and Why Does It Matter? Culture, Education, Identity" at 5:00 tomorrow in Barn 2. After listening to Richie (who holds a dissertation fellowship at Middlebury and teaches a course on "Anthropology and American Indians while he finishes his Ph.D. in socio-cultural anthropology at Arizona State University), the ugly duckling came to value his own identity and scorn his mother, father, and older brothers and sisters, all of whom only became beautiful swans by going on Extreme Makeovers: Waterfowl Edition.

Stranded Student Grimm, Needs Fairy Tale Ending

"I'll take my car to the ball," said Zoe Singer. "It's all the way in Brooklyn." "Yes," replied the fairy godmother, growing irritated at all these alterations to the story, "but you're staying *well* past midnight, darling, so you'll not be able to drive it back." "Whatever shall I do?" cried Zoe, who realized that she'd need a ride *back* to Bread Loaf on Sunday or Monday. Then it occurred to her. "Maybe *someone* else will be in New York this weekend and could drive me back! But how will I repay them?" Wanting to hang on to her glass slipper in the hope that its mate would turn up somewhere, and not about to take on *another* housekeeping gig after the way she was treated by her last boss, Zoe hoped that offering to buy gas would be a generous enough offer.

BLTN Contains No Little Prigs

And so all the members of BLTN crowded into the Blue Parlor Thursday after dinner. "But...but...this is where we *play games*!" the faculty children complained. "We'll huff, and we'll puff, and we'll tell our parents your names and throw gigantic tantrums until they agree to give your next paper a C!" So the BLTN members scurried out of the Blue Parlor and across the West Lawn to the Tea Cabin. "We can meet here," they said to one another. From around the corner came Marisa Ortega, director of *Mud*. She was not happy. "If you don't get off my set right now, I'll huff, and I'll puff, and I'll just go get the guns we use during the play, and..." "Eek!" the BLTN members squealed, then scampered down the hill and past the Apple Cellar and up the hill to Barn 1, where they found Dixie waiting for them. "You're safe here now," she said, although she could never quite dispel their apprehension that because Barn 1 was just another house made of sticks, future meetings should be scheduled for some sturdier structure.

Poetry Judges Seeking "Beauty" and "The Best"

David Huddle and Paul Muldoon, the judges of this year's Poetry Contest, have found the submissions somewhat lacking thus far. "Well, there's a vain little couplet about a magic mirror," Muldoon commented, "and someone rhymed *come in* with *chinny-chin-chin*, which even I think is a bit much." Huddle reminded all prospective contestants that the deadline is tomorrow afternoon, that you may submit one or two poems of no more than 40 lines each, and that your name should not appear on the poems but on a separate piece of paper attached to your submissions. "And don't try to submit any of the lyrics from *The Little Mermaid*," he added, "because I know them all by heart."

College Admissions Not Hair-Raising Process

"Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair!" the prince cried once again. She lowered her flowing locks down to the ground, and Prince began to climb the tower to his beloved. Just then Bob Clag from Middlebury's Office of Admission walked by. (He was on his way to Bread Loaf, where he'll give a presentation on Monday about Middlebury's admissions process and the ways he hopes Bread Loaf students can help identify and recruit promising applicants.)

"What's going on here?" he inquired. Rapunzel and the Prince told him their sad tale – but to their surprise, Bob became excited! "You spent your *entire* childhood trapped in a doorless tower under a witch's curse? That would make an *incredible* college essay! And you, sir – well, your climbing skills would be an asset to our Mountaineering Club," adding to himself that the Development Office wouldn't mind seeing some royalty in the applicant pool. Intrigued by this conversation, the witch emerged from her neighboring cottage and began to press Bob on issues such as campus safety and scholarship opportunities for the impressively-coiffed.

Correct Guess Brings Happy Ending

"Can you guess his name?" asked Rumpelstiltskin, exhibiting the caricature from yesterday's *Crumb*. "Is it...Jim Maddox?" someone responded. "No!" Rumpelstiltskin said gleefully, "Is it...Dr. Caligari?" another said. "NO!" the little man shrieked, dancing a little jig. Chris Benson, Team Pederson/McMillan, and Team Beveridge/Broderson smiled to themselves, then said, "Is it...*Henrik Ibsen*?" "How did you know?" Rumpelstiltskin bellowed, tearing the picture into a thousand pieces and cursing himself for ever dropping a hint as obvious as "Clay Courts Not Nadal's House" into yesterday's *Crumb*. "You win," he grudgingly confessed. "What is it you want me to do?" "Look, if you can spin straw into gold," they said, "then spinning our p.o.s. *Native Son* papers into something readable shouldn't be too hard. Put 'em in our boxes by 9 a.m. tomorrow. We'll be drinking margaritas at Amigos if you need anything."

Elfyn Help Does Constitute Academic Dishonesty

Once there was a poor paper-writer who worked very hard at his craft. But no matter how long into the night he toiled, he found himself falling asleep at his work-table before he had completed all the writing he had to do by the next day. "I will rise early and finish it in the morning, before it is due," he told himself, then fell into a sound sleep. When he returned to the Library the next morning, he was astonished to find that someone had completed his paper for him, printed it out, and returned his secondary sources to the cart. "It must be elves!" he thought to himself, although when he told his wife about it later that day, she said that the elves had abandoned academia for the cookie industry years before.

That night, with another eight-pager due the following morning, the paper-writer once again worked until midnight and placed his unfinished work on the table. But this time he lurked in a corner, hoping to catch a glimpse of his mysterious assistants. He soon drifted into a light sleep, but when he heard the click of a stapler, he lifted his head to see several small, shadowy figures scurry out the door. There on the table was his completed essay, far more astute than anything he could have written by himself. "It *is* the elves!" the paper-writer inwardly rejoiced.

He can surely be forgiven for thinking so, even though it was actually Jeffrey Shoulson and Margery Sokoloff's children doing the nocturnal revisions and demonstrating yet another of the **Top Ten Signs the Faculty Children Are Smarter Than You**. Any other signs of their intellectual superiority should be sent to the *Crumb* by Friday morning.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 22

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Trivia

What novel, according to its author, is "not about slavery"?

Events

Richie Myers
5:00, Barn 2

Poetry Contest
Deadline 5:00

Lindy Hop
Workshop
7:00, Barn A

BLTN
7-8:30, Barn 1

Mud
7:15, Tea Cabin

Gilmore 9:00

Dinner Menu

Crispy loin
pork or
mushroom
strudel with
sun-dried
tomato pesto;
smashed
potatoes;
strawberry
shortcake.

Weather

Today:
PM storms,
80/64.

Tomorrow:
Scattered storms,
77/62.

Suppressed
Desires:
Mostly sunny,
85/62.

They're Mud, and They're Not Going to Take It Any More

Tonight's your last chance to catch Marisa Ortega's production of *Mud*, which has brought a level of activity to the Tea Cabin that hasn't been seen since at least the summer of 1921, when Willa Cather spent her days there working on *A Lost Lady*. And while it's not known whether Miss Cather attracted spectators to her daily writing sessions, it's hard to imagine even her most deftly turned phrase generating the level of applause *Mud* has received the past two nights. Showtime is 7:15; bring bug spray and a blanket for maximum comfort.

Please Beat These Dead Lines

*I think that I shall never be
A champ at Bread Loaf poetry.
Besides, the contest ends to-day;
Dash something off by 5? No way.
But fifteen hundred bucks awaits
The writers whose poetic traits
Impress both Huddle and Muldoon.
(Alas, the money won't come soon
Enough to pay for your costume.)
This poem's made a fool of me;
I should have written 'bout a tree.*

I Want a Little Sugar in My Bowl

Neither a somewhat odd pick-up line or the lament of the 7:50 breakfast arrival who likes her coffee sweet, the headline is a Nina Simone song that's one of the hits you'll hear if you come to what Allison Barker calls the "super fun, super casual jitterbug and Lindy hop workshop" tonight at 7 in Barn A. "There's more to Lindy than swing music," Allison says, "and the basic moves will help you in almost any social dance scene." She recommends that you wear comfortable clothes and tennis shoes or anything else secured well to your feet; heels and open-heeled shoes aren't ideal. Bring some water too, as Barn A will be cookin' before too long.

Desperately Seeking Cezanne

Pete D'Angelo says that "whether you're a Picasso, a Warhol, a Bob Ross, or just a fill-in-the-numbers-water-colors expert," he'd love to use your painterly skills in his teaching project/presentation this Monday from 10-11 a.m. Pete will supply the materials; you supply the artistic talent and get to be the guest star of a class. Also worth noting is Pete's indication that "small bribes that can be withdrawn in one ATM transaction are also on the table."

Today's Identity Talk En-Richie-Ing

Bread Loaf graduate Richie Myers (Lakota Sioux) returns to the mountain this afternoon to give a talk and lead a discussion for all interested students and faculty. The talk, "Who Are You and Why Does It Matter? Culture, Education, Identity," will be held in Barn 2 at 5:00. Richie is finishing his Ph.D. in socio-cultural anthropology at Arizona State University and currently holds a dissertation fellowship at Middlebury, where he is teaching a course on "Anthropology and American Indians."

BLTN Will Be Loved To-Night

BLTN members are reminded of their final summer's meeting tonight from 7-8:30 in Barn 1. Dixie assures you that there'll be plenty of time to sign each other's yearbooks, promise to write, and make the logically untenable pledge to be "Best Friends 4-Ever" with at least three different people.

This Is the Meal Equally Set

Tomorrow's cookout is the meal equally set, these black bean burgers the meat for natural hunger, It is for the off-campus just the same as for the on-campus, for families just the same as for students, Chef Jim serves pasta salad and watermelon to all, He will not have a single Loafer slighted or left away, The waitstaff-woman, bocce-player, paper-writer, are hereby invited, It is for the wicked just the same as the righteous, The mosquito-bitten scholar is invited, the flamingo-thief is invited; There shall be no difference between them and the rest.

Enter Virgin Territory with Fri. Film

Off-campus students and their families are invited to stick around after the picnic for the 9:00 Friday film. Given the fact that this week's selection is *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, however, you might want to bundle the children off to bed or give the babysitter \$25 to buy them all root beer floats at the A&W while you enjoy the Steve Carell comedy. It's the unrated and extended version, so I'm very, very frightened about what that means we might see during the waxing scene.

Big Demand Means Big Hurry

Remember that you can now pick up tickets for *Big Love* at the Front Desk. Act fast, because seating is limited, and you won't want to be on the outside looking in for this wildly different and wildly entertaining major production of the summer.

The Costumes of the Country

The clerks at Ben Franklin and other area retailers love this week, partly for the increased sales Suppressed Desires generates, but partly for the fun of guessing what outfit could possibly result from the various combinations of items Loafers purchase. Flannel trousers + picture of Sistine Chapel + peach probably mean Prufrock, while rub-on tattoos could signify Chris Hutchison or Jim Maddox (depending on the style of tattoo). It's probably best not to contemplate what Kurt Broderon was doing purchasing Hannaford's entire inventory of baby oil. At least not until several beers into Saturday night, when even the most extreme desires will seem rational.

The music starts at 9, as usual; come early and dance often at the biggest Saturday night celebration of the summer.

Blue Barry Season Upon Us

Having warmed up by serving as the *Ellen* reader a couple of weeks back, senior Barry Mothes will read from his own work (which he promises is nothing like *Ellen*) on Sunday in the Blue Parlor. He'll be the one student reader in what's otherwise the "Invasion of the Front Desk" Blue Parlor reading, as Ed Brown, Peter Newton, and MacNair Randall will also share their writing.

Gilmore Guys Lead Thursday Lineup

It's a little-known fact that the Gilmore bonfire and readings haven't always been held on Thursday nights. The current tradition only dates back to 1983, the debut of NBC's "Must-See TV" Thursday lineup. Bread Loaf students, bereft at not knowing what high jinks Theo and Rudy would get into on that week's episode of *The Cosby Show*, decided that the only acceptable substitute was the fun to be had at Gilmore.

Now, more than two decades later, Gilmore is still the place to go on Thursday to see your *Friends*, some of whom are named *Will* and *Grace* and possibly *Joey*. You can sit by the fire, ringed by the pines and *Frasier* firs, greet another Battell passage with *Cheers* and applause, and enjoy an adult beverage or two (but not too many, because no one wants your Thursday to end up in the *ER* or *Night Court*).

Admission: Possible

How many Bread Loaf students who teach during the year have thought, as they relaxed in an Adirondack chair, "You know, [insert name of high school student] would really love it up here"? None, probably, because whose thoughts have brackets in them?

But if, even after considering what winter in Vermont must be like, it's occurred to you that Middlebury is a place your students should know better, you'll want to attend a meeting on Monday with Bob Clagett, Dean of Admissions at Middlebury. He'll talk about ways Bread Loaf students can help the college identify and attract promising applicants.

Getting on This Wait List is Good

The annual Senior-Faculty Wait Night has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 8th. What does this mean, you ask stressed out and quailing at even the simplest analytical challenge. Well, Senior-Faculty Wait Night is when the seniors and faculty swap roles with the waitstaff, the former donning aprons to bow to every culinary caprice of the latter. Faculty should expect to be badgered by Lucy, and seniors by Deidre, to participate in this fun evening.

The Fall of the House of a Sshhh-er

The first floor of the Library, once a silent sanctuary, is getting noisier again. This trend is much to the consternation of students unable to concentrate because of the keyboard percussion of people who, despite the signs explicitly saying "No Typing," persist in e-mailing and word-processing on the first floor. There are eight computers on the second floor if you need to type anything longer than a Web address; I implore you to use those, because what might happen when students trying to read *A Tale of Two Cities* grow irate and get ideas involving the paper cutter and its "Careful! No Safety Guard!" notice is almost too grisly to contemplate.

Yesterday's Trivia *Alien* to Many

Although there's no concrete evidence that this is what happened, it's easy to imagine Ridley Scott reading the Brothers Grimm short story "The Ungrateful Son" and thinking, "Hmmm...toad attached to boy's face, boy needs to feed toad or else it eats his face...let's see...put it in our space, make the toad some kind of scampering squid-thing...smell blockbuster!"

The Alaska Babes in the Woods, Jay Crawford-Kelly, Team Pederson/McMillan, Tim Coy, and Team Beveridge/Broderon all named the correct story and will no doubt emit little squeals of glee when they spot their names above.

Minor Better Than Yours

Many Croutons are in class *seven* hours a day, not two or three like the average wimpy Bread Loafer, and the effects are beginning to show. For example, Emily Shoulson is more than halfway through *Remembrance of Things Past*. In the original French.

"But," you say, "I've *seen* the faculty children tearing around the Dining Hall and frolicking on the lawn between the Inn and the Annex after meals. They're just sweet, innocent little kids!" So I thought, until I innocently asked them one night what they were playing and was told that what I called "playing" was actually "a mediated construct intended to reify the dominant hierarchical system of age-value and subvert any interrogation of that construct."

I don't know what that means either, but it's definitely one of the **Top Ten Signs the Faculty Children are Smarter Than You**. If you have any others, submit them to the *Crumb* by tomorrow morning and hope to see your best ideas included in that day's issue.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 23

Friday, July 28, 2006

Trivia

Which two-time Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction was born 137 years ago tomorrow?

Events

Friday
All-School Picnic 6:00

The 40-Year-Old Virgin
9:00, Barn

Saturday
Suppressed Desires
9-1, Barn

Sunday
Ultimate 4:00

Madrigalists
7:00, Barn
Blue Parlor 7:30

Dinner Menu

Spinach salad,
lamb cubes
vindaloo, caesar
marinated
chicken, teriyaki
portabellas,
watermelon,
cookies....

Weather

Today:
Thunderstorms,
78/62.

Tomorrow:
Partly cloudy,
82/58.

Sunday:
Isolated storms,
76/56.

A Star is Barn: Decorations Planned, Magnificent Amber's On Tap for Saturday's Suppressed Desires

Say hello to "Hollywood," the theme for Suppressed Desires 2006. Cherry and the Annex will transform the Barn into a little slice of SoCal, and it'll be the place to be if you're anyone at all – or just dressed as anyone at all. Make sure you have a costume – otherwise you're not acting, babe, and how do you expect to land a major deal if you don't let the studios see you acting? And I promise you'll get the star treatment all night long, 'cause that's what you are – you're a *star*, sweetheart. Your beers are comped, I know for a fact that Wolfgang Puck hand-roasted the Chex Mix himself, and I'll make some calls and get your name to the bouncer so you can bypass those no-talent D-listers waiting outside. No, you don't have to sleep with anyone to get in – this isn't the Dark Ages anymore, babe – but what you do afterwards is your own business. OK? OK. I'd tell you to call me, but you know how the paparazzi helicopters mess with the cell reception up there.

Oh, Pooh – Picnic to Move Indoors?

As I write this article, the rain rain rain is coming down down down in rushing rising rivlets, which, besides frightening Piglet with quite a rightful fright, might force tonight's All-School Picnic indoors. Let's hope the possibility of a change of venue doesn't keep you away – anyone who enjoyed a tuna steak at the Robert Frost Picnic will tell you that a Chef Jim cookout is no ordinary weenie roast. (Check the menu in the sidebar.)

The Turn of the Screw

Steve Carell plays the title role in tonight's film, *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, which conveniently doubles as a hilarious release from paper stress and an instructional video (cleverly scheduled the evening before Suppressed Desires) for the, ahem, uninitiated. Showtime is 9 in the Barn, where free snacks will abound.

Front Desk Relocates to Blue Parlor

If, as seems likely, the entire Front Desk staff decamps to the Blue Parlor on Sunday night to hear their colleagues Peter Newton, Macnair Randall, and Ed Brown, as well as senior Barry Mothes, read from their work, then who mans the Front Desk in their absence? Leaving only a skeleton crew to guard Bread Loaf's nerve center risks an uprising of the proletariat, a storming of the barricades, and the redistribution of wealth in the form of leftover copies of *New York Times* to the subscriptionless masses.

Now that I think about it, such an insurrection seems unlikely, since most of the aforementioned proletariat will be in the Blue Parlor listening or else too busy slaving over papers to foment much of anything.

Big Crowd for Small Gathering Author

Anyone planning to go to Suppressed Desires as President of the Patricia Powell Fan Club won't have to wait long for his or her dreams to be realized; on Monday, she'll give the fifth and final faculty reading of the summer. Patricia is the author of the novels *Me Dying Trial*, *A Small Gathering of Bones*, and *The Pagoda* and has been hailed as "a major voice in Caribbean literature." Everyone is encouraged to attend.

May I Have Some Orr?

Such a request would be unthinkable in Mrs. Mann's boardinghouse, but yes, you certainly may. Next Saturday (August 5th) at 10 a.m., runners and pedestrians of all speeds should congregate at John's Pond for the annual Charlie Orr Memorial 5K Fun Run/Jog/Walk. Modernism expert and Official Timer Victor Luftig promises, for this morning, to adopt the fixed definition of "time" favored in athletic competition over the highly mutable conception found in Joyce and Woolf.

If You Teach Midd Level Students

Bob Clagett, Middlebury's Dean of Admissions, will visit Bread Loaf at 5 on Monday to talk about undergraduate life, the admissions process, and ways he hopes Bread Loafers can help his office identify and attract promising applicants.

Everyone is invited; the meeting is scheduled for Barn 1, although if turnout is much higher than anticipated, Bob will either move the gathering to another location or ask attendees to take a short standardized test and produce an essay on an influential figure or an instance of overcoming adversity in order to figure out who can come.

Extra Course Offered Next Sunday

There's still time for you to sign up for next Sunday's 6th (maybe) Usually-Annual Bread Loaf Golf Scramble; a sheet is posted outside the Dining Hall. The tournament format is friendly to golfers of all abilities, and all that's required to join in is a \$10 contribution to the prize pool and the willingness to spend a few hours at the course – hours that, let's face it, you'd probably spend playing Internet Hearts anyway instead of writing your *Heart of Darkness* paper.

B&B Never a Bad Idea in Vermont

If memory serves, Team Beveridge/Broderson has answered nearly every trivia question correctly. But if memory returns serve with a vicious slice backhand, so has Team Pederson/McMillan. They both knew that Toni Morrison says *Beloved* is "not about slavery," as did the Alaska Babes in the Woods, Tim Coy, and Jay Crawford-Kelly.

But which of the Teams is ahead? One option would be to peruse back issues of the *Crumb* to get an accurate count, but I think it would be more fun to settle the summer's competition with a smack-talk showdown in these columns. Therefore, Teams B&B and P&M should submit not only the correct answer, but a derisive remark about the other pair, to the *Crumb* by Monday morning. I suppose that anyone else who wants to append a verbal barb to their guess can do so, although I'm not letting the *Crumb* devolve into Bread Loaf's version of *Yo Momma*.

Remember that there's always a clue lurking somewhere in a headline...

Kids' Idea of a Top Ten List is *The Decalogue*

The Director's Assistants maintain their lead, but just about everyone's got something to brag about – the Waitstaff snags the top spot in this week's list, while the Apple Seedlings, sprouting into formidable competitors, earn more entries than anyone else. I suppose the Oxford contingent could whine a little bit, but they'll have no business complaining next week, when the topic will be right in their wheelhouse. Enough blather from me – you really only turned to this article to read the

Top Ten* Signs the Faculty Children are Smarter Than You

*Actual contents may vary.

26. As you mention your paper topic at the salad bar, you hear snickers from the kids' table. (SWCH)
25. Faculty children would never voluntarily read *Ulysses*. (JS)
24. They continually point to a spot on your shirt, then flick you on the nose when you look down. (AS)
23. They know better than to take three classes. (WS, FD)
22. They've all received endowed high chairs from Jim Maddox. (OX)
21. Perhaps you noticed Asher Muldoon's critique, "Daddy's Poetry Is Boring," in last week's *New York Review of Books*. (OX)
20. Croutons now offering M.Litt degree. (DA)
19. "Playing school" involves a Kool-Aid-stained copy of Ovid's *Metamorphosis*... in Latin. (AS)
18. Dashiell composes sonnet out of Alpha-Bits. (DA)

17. How many times do the children have to explain this to you...you simply cannot triple stamp a double stamp! (OX)
16. While drunk Bread Loafers laughed at *Kipper's Birthday Party* at last week's Gilmore, Asher and Josiah were discussing its existential meanings over marshmallows. (SWCH)
15. They've figured out how to make the All-Lucky Charms Diet work for them. (WS)
14. Croutons orders Crayons, Scissors, and De-Construction Paper. (DA)
13. When your issue of *Us Weekly* arrives, you greedily devour the pages, only to feel Dashiell's derisive gaze at your back. (SWCH)
12. Asher has forsaken his Spiderman costume for a tweed blazer and pipe. (AS)
11. You think there's no cell reception? Savannah's been texting all summer! (SWCH)
10. They keep their sleepovers a secret. (SWCH)
9. They *think* in iambic pentameter. (WS)
8. Dashiell now charges students to watch his Cheerio-eating "performance art" pieces. (AS)
7. "I've got a Fiction of Finance for you – how about raising my allowance?" (DA)
6. They insist on "historicizing" SpongeBob SquarePants. (AS)
5. They gather to watch Fellini's *Satyricon* in their PJs every Friday night in Barn 1. (AS)
4. Their favorite doll is Post-Feminist Cultural Critique Barbie. (AS)
3. Asher's "Mr. Meaty" is more fleshed out than any character you've created in Fiction Writing. (WS)
2. Miriam and Ben overheard quoting Edward Said's *Culture and Imperialism* to refute 8:00 bedtime. (DA)
1. Oliver Lewis has found a girlfriend, and you haven't. (WS)

Current standings: Director's Assistants (DA) 30; OXymorons (OX) 24; Stuart Whittle's Crunk Hip (SWCH) 21; Waitstaff (WS) 20; Apple Seedlings (AS) 16; Front Desk (FD) 6; Exiles on Main Street (EMS) 4; "GP" (GP) 4; Phoebe Lewis (PL) 3; Off-Campus Exiles (OCE) 3; Kilgore Trout (KT) 2; Men of Annex (MOA) 2; Team Slobodan Milosevic (TSM) 1; Ileana Jimenez (IJ) 1; Team John Simon (JS) 1.

Wittenberg Elsinore Community College Dr. Zhivago School of Medicine Invisible Man's Nameless University The Magic Mountain School Valley of Ashes Vocational Tech Birnam Wood School of Forestry Belmont Law School and Gender-Disguise Institute Jordan College, Oxford Oliver Twist School for Orphans Ahab Fisheries Management Institute RuPaul School of Cosmetology James Gatz Self-Reinvention Clinic Jane Austen School of Etiquette Henry V Military College Atticus Finch Law School Hamlet School of Existentialism

THE CRUMBON APPLICATION

Ahab Fisheries Management Institute Queequeg School of Tattooing Hemingway Bartending Academy Lord of the Flies Nursery School Meat Loaf School of Mathematics Joe Gargery Smithy & Metalworking College Prospero University for One-on-One Tutelage School for Scandal Oggsford College Old Piney School of Forestry William Carlos Williams M.D./M.F.A. Joint Degree Program Heart of Darkness Semester Abroad Frankenstein Polytechnic Institute Hester Prynne College for Wayward Girls Yoknapatawpha County College Emerson Do-It-Yourself Academy

Volume 87, Number 24

Monday, July 31, 2006

Trivia

Which writer, despite being dead, still "eyes big love" along with the rest of Bread Loaf?

Events

Middlebury Admissions Presentation
5:00, Barn 1

Madrigalists
5:00, Barn

Patricia Powell Reading
7:30, Barn

Lindy Hop
8:30, Barn A

Dinner Menu

Grilled chicken
Tuscan panzanella
with fennel cream
or barley risotto
cakes with spicy
apricot glaze;
summer sautéed
vegetables;
cheesecake.

Weather

All-Storm Forecast:

Today:
Isolated,
81/64.

Tomorrow:
STRONG,
85/70.

Sunday:
Scattered,
84/62.

DECLARATION OF EARLY DECISION TO ATTEND POWELL READING

By signing below, you indicate that you intend to occupy one (1) seat at tonight's reading by Patricia Powell. It is **your** responsibility to arrive in the Barn before the scheduled 7:30 starting time; as the process of finding excellent seats is a highly competitive one, the school can make no guarantee as to availability. You simply *must* read, or plan to read, at least one (1) of Patricia's works (*Me Dying Trial*, *A Small Gathering of Bones*, *The Pagoda*). Attendance at the reception in Treman following the reading is strongly encouraged but not required.

(signature) _____

REGULAR DECISION – WHEN TO ATTEND *BIG LOVE*?

Indicate below which performance(s) of *Big Love* you plan to attend. Admission to the production is contingent on your obtaining tickets from the Front Desk, so filling out this form is just a gigantic waste of time.

- ☐ *Wednesday, August 2*
- ☐ *Thursday, August 3*
- ☐ *Friday, August 4*
- ☐ *Saturday, August 5*
- ☐ *Sunday, August 6*

☐ *I would be interested in serving as an usher for one of the performances, because it means I get to reserve my own seat. I will speak with Faye Christensen in the Theater office.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

List all students you have taught or currently teach who would make excellent Middlebury College undergraduates:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Bring this list to today's 5:00 meeting with Middlebury Director of Admissions Bob Clagett. He will be on campus to discuss the college, its application process, and ways Bread Loafers can help Middlebury identify and attract promising candidates.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Please indicate your involvement and level of achievement in the following extracurricular activities.

Bread Loaf Madrigalists

(level of commitment to today's 5 p.m. rehearsal)

Bocce tournament

(stage of advancement – quarterfinal/agony of defeat)

Charlie Orr Memorial 5K Fun Run

(anticipated time & date you'll cross the finish line if race begins at 9:30 on Saturday)

Lindy Hop Workshop

(# of people you'll bring to tonight's 8:30 class)

Wimbleloaf

(have you even planned your first match?)

Bread Loaf Golf Scramble

(# of balls you usually hit into the water/woods/clubhouse windows)

EDUCATIONAL DATA

Graduate school of English you now attend (if you don't know, stop here and crumple application up): _____

How long have you attended this institution (in weeks)? _____

How long does it seem like you've been here (in months/years)? _____

Current status of final paper: ☐ Limping along ☐ Don't ask ☐ [sigh] ☐ [stabbing Crumb with fork] ☐ We have to write a what?

Comments received on most recent paper (choose 3 particularly pithy adjectives): _____

Professor's response to your in-class contributions: ☐ Transparently fake look of interest ☐ Eye-rolling ☐ Burying head in hands

TESTING INFORMATION

Please complete the following standardized test in lieu of submitting SAT or ACT scores.

1. Did you reserve copies of *Children Writing Stories* at the Bookstore?
2. How many copies?
3. Did you receive a note in your box saying that they had arrived?
4. Did you know that if you don't pick yours up by tomorrow, it'll be offered to the next person on the waiting list?
5. ED is to BOOKSTORE as _____ is to MOOSE.
6. How many books will you buy next week when the entire Bookstore inventory is 20% off?
7. How long does it take the average English major to calculate 20% off anything?

TOP TEN EXPERIENCE

Please list at least ten (10) humorous ideas for this week's list of the Top Ten Names for Bread Loaf's Own British Pub. Submissions will be evaluated for humor, relevance, and concision. You will be notified by Friday morning whether your entries have been accepted.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

TRIVIA SHORT ANSWER (TWO INITIALS AND A LAST NAME)

Identify the author who, like all of Bread Loaf this week, "eyes big love." Submit your answer to the Crumb by morning.

The following receive full scholarships to the Meat Loaf School of Mathematics for identifying Booth Tarkington as the Pulitzer Prize-winner born this past weekend in 1869: The Alaska Babes in the Woods, the Exiles on Main St., Jay Crawford-Kelly, Tim Coy, Team Pederson/McMillan, and Team Beveridge/Broderson.

PERSONAL ESSAY

This personal statement helps your professors laugh at you in ways different from your coursework, grades, test scores, and other objective data because you actually *chose* to write an additional essay (2500-5000 words) in addition to the ones already assigned in your courses. Please indicate your topic by checking the appropriate box.

- ☐ Evaluate the effect on you of a risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced, at or after a Barn dance.
- ☐ Henry David Thoreau wrote, "Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in." Explain why he's a complete wacko.
- ☐ Indicate a Cherry resident who has had a tremendous impact (physical or other) on you, and describe that impact.
- ☐ Identify a character in fiction or poetry whom you think you could take in a bar brawl, and explain why.

OTHER REQUIRED INFORMATION

Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor, felony, or other crime?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered "yes" and the felony in question is related to the disappearance of the Crumb Bum's treasured Powell's Books Nalgene water bottle, return it to him and all will be forgiven. If the felony in question is the removal from the Library of reserve texts intended for the use of everyone in your class, return them to the shelves under cover of darkness or otherwise stealthily to avoid persecution. I hereby authorize review of my Bread Loaf reapplication with these heinous acts taken into account.

BEFORE YOU SUBMIT THIS APPLICATION

Have you remembered the following?

- Submit reenrollment form and course/campus evaluations to Office
- Request transcripts from Bread Loaf Office if official documentation is needed for accreditation, professional development verification, etc.
- Return off-campus housing evaluations to Office
- Sign up at Front Desk for seating at Commencement Banquet (non-seniors planning to stay on campus only)

I certify that all the information in my application is my own work or the work of my lunch table buddies. A non-refundable application fee of whatever you think it'll take must accompany your application. Make checks/money orders payable to The Crumb.

Your name: _____ Today's date: _____

The Crumbudgeon

The Bitter, Fed-Up Bulletin of that No-Good Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 25

Tuesday, August 1, 2006

Trivia

Which author ripped open his shirt in front of a reviewer to prove that he had real hair on his chest?

Events

Figures. The *Crumb* Bum leaves me in charge on a day when there's not a dad-gum thing scheduled. Least he could have given me some news to work with, but no, Mr. Fancy Newspaper Man can't be bothered to give his elders the respect they deserve. Humph.

Dinner Menu

Crispy parmesan crusted haddock arrabiatta or tofu; pasta; apple butter pumpkin pie. Just don't know why they can't serve dinner sometime reasonable, like 4:45.

Weather

Today:
A.M. storms,
88/70.

Tomorrow:
Isolated storms,
85/63.

Thursday:
Thundershowers,
77/57.

A Word from the Crumbudgeon

Seems like every year about this time, the *Crumb* Bum dusts me off and sends me out to give you all a piece of my mind. Always picks a rainy day, too, when my rheumatism's acting up and everyone's crotchety from all that work they have to do. Not that you'd know what real work is, you young whipper-snappers. Why, when I was a Bread Loaf student we had to split wood for an hour and a half before we could start a fire to make the Library warm enough to write in. And we didn't have computers to write our papers on. We had to use quill pens! Ah, you wouldn't listen anyway. You probably thought I was *dead*! Well, this old son-of-a-gun's too ornery to die, and I'm still spry enough to step in for that no-good lazy *Crumb* Bum and tell you how it *really* is round these parts.

Nowadays It's All Mee, Mee, Mee

Gimme something about love, you tell playwright Charles Mee. But regular love's not good enough for you, is it – it's got to be *Big Love*. Well, that's what you're getting, and you'd better like it.

And why should I have to remind you till I'm blue in the face about something as obvious as the play? It starts tomorrow night, in case you've got your head in the clouds, so if you haven't gotten tickets yet, you better see the folks at the Front Desk and ask real nice if there are any left. Don't come crying to me if you don't luck out – even that rapscallion *Crumb* Bum's been advertising it for weeks.

The Madrigalists always perform before the doors to the Theater open. Got no sense, those Madrigalists. Got a name like that, and what do they sing? All stuff from the 1980's, which you youngsters probably think is old. I've got ribbon candy older than that in my front parlor! Well, if you're itching to hear them, they'll perform on the East Lawn just before the doors to the Theater open so you can stand around and listen to them caterwaul away while you're eaten alive by mosquitoes.

Now Sit Down & Shut Yer Trap

What's that? You want to *pick* your own seat for the play? Mollycoddled little rascal. All right, you can pick your seat, but we're going to make you earn it. Talk to Faye, and she'll put you to work as an usher. Then you can sit wherever your little heart desires. Makes no difference to me. I'll just sit behind you and jab your ankles with my cane.

Modern Films Too Austen-tatious

Fridays you get one of them moving pictures in the Barn, I gather. Seems that this week it's *Pride and Prejudice*, that new version with Keira Knightley and Donald Sutherland. Don't know why they had to remake it – that 1939 version with that dish Greer Garson and Laurence Olivier worked just fine for me. Don't even know why they had to make a movie out of it at all! What, you kids can't be bothered to pick up a perfectly good book? No, you have to have it on the tee-vee! They've probably gone and mucked this new version up with a whole lot of explosions and fancy computer graphics, too. And to make things worse, the popcorn's free. Sure, it only cost a nickel when I was your age, but back then you had to shovel coal for a ten-hour day to earn that nickel! And if you wanted a sarsaparilla? Well, you had to get a paper route to pay for that.

Since Hugh Asked, I'll Tell You

Now, I've seen *Crumb* editors come and go, but none of 'em holds a candle to Hugh Coyle. There was a *Crumb* editor for you. Hugh Coyle had a sense of tradition. Why, he was the first one to invite me up to deliver the news for a day. Before that, I just sat on the front porch and watched the world pass by. But even he got too big for his britches before long – left Bread Loaf to make it in the wide world, started his own business called Paper Trail Solutions, Inc., and now he never writes, never calls... But he is coming to visit this Friday at 5 with Lisa O'Hara, an editor at McGraw-Hill, to talk about the world of educational publishing and the ways teachers can pick up a little pocket money by freelancing, editing, test-scoring, and such.

Modern Music Gives Me a Nelly-ache

'Bout time the Director's Assistants came to their senses. Time was, you got *real* music at the Saturday dances – you could tap your toes to "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree" and "Button Up Your Overcoat." Nowadays all them songs the youngsters want to hear are about *sex* – oh, hush, Mabel, I'll say what I've a mind to say – *sex*, I said!

But this week they're all a-hootin' and a-hollerin' about bringing in a *live band* to play some danceable bluegrass/folk/rock music after the play Saturday night. Some fellers calling themselves Bo Bo Denk – bunch o' words that don't mean squat to me! But I found out their songs have titles like "Gone Fishin'" and "Movin' On" – and those sound a far sight better to me than all that shake-your-this and hump-a-lump-a-bump nonsense you hear on the radio.

Narrator Doddering; Car, Not at All

Oldsmobile! Now, *that* was a car. They don't make 'em like that anymore, that's for sure. Here's Cotter Donnell (now that's a name I like – real character, that name has), selling his beauty of a 1991 Cutlass Ciera, 125,000 miles, still reliable as a good milk cow, and going for a song – \$800, or so he says. Ah, but the kids today wouldn't know a good deal from a dead cat. Nowadays they want all these fancy-shmancy doodads in their cars – like cup holders. Back in my day, we didn't *need* cup holders. I just held the coffee between my legs – and if I hit a bump and it gave me third-degree burns? Well, the wife was none too happy about that, if you get my meaning, eh? But you *toughed it out!* And now everyone wants their car to come with a navigational system. We had a navigational system, all right. It was called a *road sign*, dagnabbit! Well, talk to Cotter if you're interested in his Ciera – he says you can reach him on "BreadNet," whatever in tarnation that is.

She Puts the Bread in the Disk Drive, or What?

Here's that "BreadNet" popping up again. Caroline Eisner – and I've known her since she was knee-high to a grasshopper – says she'll "put Breadnet/FirstClass onto people's computers so that they can have it all set up for when they get home." Sounds like she's putting a loaf of bread on your computer – and you can't do that yourself? Next thing you know, you'll want Caroline to send you homemade cookies every week and call you up to read you a bedtime story. Little do-it-yourself spirit and a healthy dose of elbow grease, that's what this bunch needs, if you ask me.

Form-al Complaint

Elaine goes and makes a simple request – return your reenrollment forms, course evaluations, and transcript requests (if you need 'em) – and what do you do? You gum up the works with your hemming and hawing, doing everything except what you were asked to do! Why, I've half a mind to get up and give you a good thrashing. Don't you laugh, young buck – I took Max Schmeling six rounds in Havana in '34, and I'll whip an upstart like you so fast my false teeth'd be back in before they knew I'd taken them out.

In Our Time, Poets Behaved Themselves

e.e. cummings. Oh, capital letters too good for you fella? If I'd written my name like that on my slate in Miss Macready's schoolhouse, I'd have gotten a nice whack across the knuckles. Anyway, he was the writer who says he "eyes big love" in one of his "poems." Y'ever seen one of them? Words scattered all over the page like a gust of wind came into the room and blew 'em every which way. Looks like a dog's breakfast to me. Now Longfellow and Whittier – *they* wrote poems!

This bunch knew who Mr. I-Only-Use-Lowercase was and probably thinks he's the cat's pajamas: Tim Coy, the Alaska Babes in the Woods, Jay Crawford-Kelly, Team Pederson/McMillan, and Team Beveridge/Broderson. Now, the answer to today's question? *He* used capital letters and good, solid words – he's a real writer, which means you probably won't know who the dickens he is. Don't tell *me* if you know – what do I care? Just send those pathetic guesses to the *Crumb* Bum by tomorrow, and he'll take care of it.

How About "The Gripes"?

Don't see the point of all this fuss about the Top Ten list. Let's see here. **Top Ten Names for Bread Loaf's Own British Pub.** Now, that's a damn fool idea. You want a British pub? How about goin' to Britain? Criminy, you give the folks here Top Ten lists like this and they'll begin to think they *deserve* a British pub, when all that'll do is make Route 125 even more trafficky than it is now! Seems like every time I take the Studebaker out for a turn, there are cars lined^{le} behind me as far as I can see, when I'm going along just fine at eighteen miles an hour to take in the view.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 26

Wednesday, August 2, 2006

Trivia

Charles Mee says that he likes to bring into his plays material from history, philosophy, lyricism, literary criticism, and which checkout-line publication?

Events

Director's Reception

5:00, Inn Lawn

Madrigalists

8:00, East Lawn

Big Love

8:30, Theater

Dinner Menu

Indian curried lamb or green curried vegetables; naan; jasmine rice; frozen yogurt pie.

Weather

Today:

Strong storms & still steamy, 86/64.

Tomorrow:

Cooler w/rain, 74/57.

Friday:

A.M. showers, 78/57.

Big Love Is the Big Event

Tonight's the night. All summer long you've been hearing tantalizing whispers about *Big Love* (and bloodcurdling screams from the Theater during rehearsal). There's a *pool* on stage? Why do I always see the crew cleaning up cake? And did I hear correctly that there's some kind of mass slaughter? These little *amuse-bouches* have whetted everyone's appetite, and tonight we finally get to see the entirety of Charles Mee's play of big ideas and big fun.

The performance begins at 8:30, but the doors will open immediately following the Madrigalists' concert. Opening Night is – no surprise – technically a sellout, but at 8:20 or so Faye will open up any unclaimed seats on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you're *not* attending tonight's performance, keep in mind that the row of lighted candles outside the Theater a reminder that the show is in progress. Traverse quietly.

Big Audio Dynamite

The Madrigalists will cap off their summer's work with a short set of songs outside the Theater at 8:00 on each night of *Big Love*'s run. Come hear the ever-popular Bread Loaf Fight Song as well as some a cappella renditions of 1980's classics.

Big Cheese

The Director himself, freshly returned from Oxford, is able to put in only a brief appearance at the afternoon reception that bears his name, but that means an increase in the per capita allotment of cheese, Otter Creek, and the other appetizing offerings. If you've received an invitation, drop by the West Lawn of the Inn at 5 in "smart casual" attire for libations and laughter.

Big Screen

Friday's film is the most recent remake of *Pride and Prejudice*, starring Keira Knightley, Matthew Macfadyen, Judi Dench, and Donald Sutherland. Showtime will be 9:00 as usual, although we'll close the Barn doors to prevent the sound from infiltrating that night's performance of *Big Love*.

Big Race

The Charlie Orr Memorial Fun Run is a Bread Loaf tradition older than some of the students here, and (as you'll hear Ed explain at lunch today) one well worth upholding. You can participate in the 22nd annual 5K race no matter whether you plan to sprint, jog, amble, hop, dog-walk, or crawl (Dashiell Division only) the course. Meet at John's Pond (behind the Barn) for the 9:30 start this Saturday and a post-race dip in the Pond.

Big Deal

Cotter Donnell is looking to sell his 1991 Oldsmobile Cutlass Ciera, which has 125,000 miles on it and still runs smoothly. He's only asking for \$800, which seems entirely reasonable, especially since one or more Bread Loafers will, as soon as the winners of the poetry contest are announced, be flush with the \$1500 in prize money.

Big Loss

Jennifer Williams has lost a precious diamond stud earring – on the set of *Big Love*, she thinks (but can't be sure). If you happen across it, you will surely receive Big Love from Jennifer in a form appropriate to the length of your acquaintance and depth of your friendship (so don't expect to be smothered in kisses if you've only just met).

Big Responsibility

If your major papers are stalled and you're desperate to accomplish something, *anything*, why not fill out your re-enrollment form and course evaluations and return them to the Office? Elaine will be so happy if you do. She'll also accept requests for official transcripts, although she reminds everyone to ask for one only if you need College-sanctioned documentation; you just want to find out your grades, they'll be available free online by the end of August.

Big Money

Former Bread Loafers Hugh Coyle and Lisa O'Hara will visit Bread Loaf on Friday to share their insights into the world of educational publishing and the numerous freelancing opportunities that can often translate into extra money for teachers. They'll talk about writing, editing, test-scoring, and other aspects of the business, then answer questions that people might have. Lisa is currently an editor in the Reading/Language Arts department at Macmillan/McGraw-Hill in New York; Hugh was an executive editor there in charge of the Editorial Services Group. Now back in Vermont, Hugh has started his own business, Paper Trail Solutions, Inc., with numerous clients from the educational world. They'll meet any interested students in Barn 1 at 5:00 Friday.

I've printed Hugh's email verbatim because he's a former *Crumb* Editor, and upon taking his place I pledged a Blood Oath to honor my predecessors by not emending in any way anything they might submit. Word has it that all hell breaks loose if one *Crumb* Editor pokes fun at another, but Hugh wouldn't mind if I told you about the time he xsklf C:/autoEXEC(RUN)/blvt/crashallcomputers/^running blackfly/plague/{basics.c:quantity="64839"}nobocce frame={CRUMBBUM}exec-run//supplycoffee=000*

Big Band

There will, of course, be a Barn dance again this Saturday, albeit a slightly truncated (11-1) one to avoid conflict with *Big Love*. You'll get two hours of live music from the bluegrass/folk sextet Bo Bo Denk, who describe themselves as "big in Greenfield (population 12,000), huge in Ashfield (pop. 800), tremendous in Craftsbury Common (pop. 750), and absolutely galactic in our hometown of Hawley, Massachusetts (pop. 332). People love us because we put on a great show, clean up after ourselves with aplomb, and happily autograph any body part thrust in front of us."

Big Shot

Some are born with the technical savvy to coordinate the tech aspects of a theatre program, some achieve that savvy, but many English teachers have the theatre program thrust upon 'em and would love to learn more from an expert in the field. Heath Hansum can explain how your equipment works and what it can do. Best of all, he'll come to your school to offer just such a lighting and sound seminar. If you're interested, get in touch with Heath at the Theatre or by email at hhansum@bucknell.edu.

Big Decision

On the last day of the *Crumb* Bum's career as a Bread Loaf student, he was in line at the Commencement Picnic buffet, lamenting his imminent graduation and seemingly permanent departure. Then he heard a mysterious and apparently disembodied voice softly say, "M.Litt... M.Litt." Was it the spirit of Joseph Battell? Or Old Piney himself? Or perhaps the ghost of the dead King of Denmark attempting to contact his son, but not enunciating perfectly? Upon turning around, he discovered that it was none of these – that it was actually the not-at-all disembodied voice of Jim Maddox encouraging him to continue his Bread Loaf education by pursuing an M.Litt. degree. If you're feeling similar separation anxiety, don't wait for Jim to whisper in your ear – just attend a meeting at 2:00 on Friday in the Blue Parlor, where he will explain the M.Litt. program and answer questions.

Big World

Those of you who aren't graduating still have a big decision to make – namely, which Bread Loaf campus to attend in 2007. Jim will hold question-and-answer sessions about each of the four other campuses over the next week: Oxford tomorrow, New Mexico Friday, Alaska Monday, and Asheville Tuesday. All meetings will take place at 5 p.m. in Barn 2.

Anyone in Vermont this summer who's interested in finding out more about Bread Loaf's Vermont campus should make a private appointment with Jim, so he can note what you look like and immediately rush to the Office to stamp "DENIED – GROSS STUPIDITY" on your reapplication form.

Big Discounts

Starting Monday, almost everything at the Bookstore will be 20% off. It's a good opportunity to stock up on Bread Loaf paraphernalia, arm yourself with a slightly less expensive bottle of bug spray before hiking the Skylight Trail, or purchase one of Ed's trademark pieces of advice, also known as "Brown Nuggets." Ed offers *Crumb* readers this free sample to spur business: "Never eat at a restaurant shaped like a boat unless it's actually a boat." You'll only pay \$4 next week, as opposed to the regular \$5 price, and they're worth every penny.

Big Day

Seniors, don't risk turning your graduation into a scene of dirt and carnage reminiscent of the end of *Big Love*! Tell Victoria many guests you expect for the Commencement Banquet (and pay for their meals), make reservations for them in on-campus housing if that's where they'd like to stay (and pay for their rooms). Otherwise, you risk having to explain to your family why your graduation dinner is at the A&W and how you thought your 92-year-old grandmother said she preferred sleeping in a tent pitched at the Robert Frost Wayside.

Big Kids

Noam Osband writes: "Wondering how to get ahead in class without actually doing the paper? Kiss up. And what better way to butter up the teacher than watching his or her child perform in this year's children's production of 'The Boy who Loved Poetry; Or How I Learned to Worrying and Love Bedwetting.' Bread Loaf children will be performing this short play at 7 p.m. on Thursday night in the Barn. It will be done way before *Big Love* begins and it will be followed by a milk and cookies reception. All are invited. Come and help yourself earn an A!"

Big Mystery

Although one not-to-be-named professor speculated that the writer who ripped open his shirt to show a reviewer that his chest hair was real was our own Paul Muldoon, the only verifiably correct answer to yesterday's trivia question is Ernest Hemingway, who bared his breast to Max Epstein upon the latter's having written "Come out from behind that false hair on your chest, Ernest. We all know you" in a review of *Death in the Afternoon* entitled "Bull in the Afternoon."

After the altercation, Hemingway told the *New York Times*, "If Mr. Eastman takes his prowess seriously...then let him waive medical rights and legal claims to damages, and I'll put up \$1,000 for any charity he favors or for himself. Then we'll go into a room and he can read his book to me – the part of his book about me. Well, the best man unlocks the door."

There will, alas, be no similar locked-door, tag-team confrontation between Teams Broderson/Beveridge and Pederson/McMillan, since one pair is here and one's in Oxford. This geographical separation is the result of a Maddoxian decree that the two competing squads never attend the same campus again lest they tear each other limb from limb in their no-holds-barred quest to be named Trivia Champ. Jay Crawford-Kelly and Chris Benson join them in guessing correctly.

Big Ten

You know by now that the *Crumb* Bum will blissfully ignore the prescribed quantity of items encoded in the phrase "Top Ten List" and include as many funny responses as he sees fit to include. This week's category is the **Top Ten Names for Bread Loaf's Own British Pub**. Find time, amid the gathering storm of paper deadlines, nights of *Big Love* (the play) or big love (private performance), bocce tournament participation/spectatorship, meals, classes, and the odd hour or two of sleep, to send your submissions to the *Crumb* Bum so your ideas can be included in Friday's final list.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 27

Thursday, August 3, 2006

Trivia

Which author died suddenly on this day in 1924?

Events

Oxford Info Session

5:00, Barn 2

The Boy Who Loved Poetry

7:00, Barn 1

Madrigalists

8:00, East Lawn

Big Love

8:30, Theater

Gilmore 11-ish

Dinner Menu

Jane's chicken parmesan or gnocchi; zucchini au gratin; chocolate cake with chocolate frosting.

Weather

Today:

Scattered storms & cooling off, 73/59.

Tomorrow:

Partly cloudy, 79/57.

Weekend:

Mostly sunny, highs near 80.

Big Love Just Slays 'Em on Opening Night

The summer's major production, Charles Mee's *Big Love*, opened last night to rave reviews and raucous applause. The play is both an adaptation of Aeschylus' *The Suppliant Maidens* and a original examination of modern morals and practices, both serious and zany, both riotous and contemplative, and constantly entertaining.

Big Love also writes the latest chapter of Chris Hutchison's and Stephen Thorne's summers-long Saga of Unusual Bread Loaf Stage Deaths. They're tied at one swordfight apiece (Stephen's Hotspur, Chris's Tybalt), but Stephen can also lay claim to a poisoning (Romeo). Chris counters with Ezra Chater from *Arcadia*, who is *presumed* killed in a duel with Byron but who *actually* dies from a monkey bite in the Central American rainforest, which Stephen attempts to match with the offstage report of Septimus Hodge's demise in *Arcadia* and the apparent beheading of his Claudio in *Measure for Measure*. Chater's bizarre demise(s) give Chris a slight edge, but Stephen receives bonus points from the judges for having killed Chris on stage once (Romeo d. Tybalt). Both their necks are on the line in *Big Love*, but you'll have to see the show to find out whether one or both of them bites the dust.

The Front Desk still has tickets available for all four remaining performances, so stop by once you figure out which night(s) you'd like to attend. The evening's festivities begin with the Madrigalists concert on the East Lawn shortly after 8, and the house opens at around 8:20.

Looking for a Real School of English?

Jim will lead an informal informational session on Bread Loaf's Oxford campus this afternoon at 5 in Barn 2; he'll describe the unique aspects of that program and answer your questions. Tomorrow he'll lead a similar meeting (same time and place) about the Santa Fe campus, with Alaska (Monday) and Asheville (Tuesday) to follow.

Hugh Come Too

Everyone interested in finding out more about the opportunities available in the world of educational publishing should come to a short presentation tomorrow featuring Hugh Coyle and Lisa O'Hara, Bread Loaf veterans ready to tell you some of the ways teachers can pick up a little extra money. They'll talk about writing, editing, test-scoring, and other aspects of the business, then answer your questions. Lisa is currently an editor at Macmillan/McGraw-Hill in New York; Hugh was an executive editor there in charge of the Editorial Services Group before starting his own business, Paper Trail Solutions, Inc. Hugh and Lisa will meet any interested students in Barn 1 at 5:00 tomorrow.

Friday's Film Showing Knightley

Tomorrow at 9 the Barn Uniplex will feature the newest film version of *Pride and Prejudice*, starring Keira Knightley as Elizabeth Bennett. Elizabeth embodies the conflict between self-determination and societal obligation shared by so many other heroines of 19th-century British literature. Her tenuous financial situation and irrepressible acerbity endanger her fortunes; on the other hand, she *does* possess all the letters in her last name, no small benefit in a world populated largely by characters identified only as Mr. C—— of W—— Hall.

Jim Gives You the Third Degree

You would think that a facility with the alphabet would be a precondition of *any* study here, but apparently there's this "Master of Letters" degree, also known as an M.Litt., that Bread Loaf offers for students who have completed their M.A. If you're eager to continue spending summers here or in one of the other corners of the Bread Loaf universe and are looking to justify the additional time and expense to your department chair or to yourself, come to an informational meeting tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. in the Blue Parlor. There, Jim will explain the M.Litt. program and answer your questions.

Poetic Forms

Fortunately, Bread Loaf does not demand a perfectly structured villanelle or sonnet from its students in order to return for an additional summer of study; the reapplication forms and course evaluations are designed to be filled out in free verse (and the reapplication form provides various useful prompts for the requested information, such as "Name," "Address," and "Intended Campus"). Please return these forms (as well as transcript requests if you need official documentation) to Elaine as soon as possible.

If You Can't Contain Yourself

Not content to offer just *one* play tonight, Bread Loaf gives you the chance for a double feature. At 7:00 in Barn 1, Bread Loaf children will perform Noam Osband's play *The Boy who Loved Poetry; Or How I Learned to Worrying and Love Bedwetting*. A milk and cookies reception in Barn 2 will follow the production, which will finish in plenty of time for you to see the attempted bedding and frequent wetting in *Big Love*.

Bo Bo Link Sighted Near Library

If you'd like to find out more about Bo Bo Denk, the bluegrass/folk band that'll be playing at Saturday's Barn dance (11-1), check out www.bobodenk.2ya.com for song lists, member bios, and past gigs. Despite the fact that their lead singer is a 30-year-old middle school teacher, their proposed set list does not include "I Got the No Child Left Behind Blues."

Blue Hoo

Bid farewell to the 2006 Blue Parlor readings on Sunday at 7:30, when Christie Beveridge, Christopher Dickinson, Shannon Hipp, and John Speck will read from their work while the audience marvels at their talents and enjoys a post-dinner glass of wine, if they so choose.

Contemporary American Sport Story

This weekend marks the return of two Bread Loaf sporting traditions. On Saturday morning at 9:30, the starting gun will fire for the 22nd Annual Charlie Orr Memorial 5K Fun Run. All you have to do to participate is show up; feel free to treat it as a race or just a pleasant stroll down 125, around the Frost Trail, and back.

On Sunday morning at 10, golfers will congregate at the Middlebury course for the 6th Often-Annual Bread Loaf Scramble, a fun tournament for players of all abilities. Talk to Jon Freeman ASAP if you're interested in playing; there are still spots available, but teams need to be put together by Friday afternoon. The \$10 entry fee covers goodie bags and post-round prizes.

Ed Takes Fifth

Starting on Monday, Ed and the Bookstore staff whack 20% of the price of most everything in their stock. Bread Loafers may dimly recall a time when they engaged in something known as "pleasure reading"; this involved the acquisition – and subsequent *enjoyment*, if such a thing can be imagined – of printed matter *chosen by the reader*. If you do decide to go to the Sale and buy copies of appealing-looking texts to try out this "pleasure reading," please understand that when you finish one book you simply *put it on the shelf and pick up another*. The urge to produce a 6-8 page essay automatically upon the conclusion of each text is an understandable byproduct of six weeks of Bread Loaf, but usually diminishes in severity over time.

Don't Get Mad, Get Grad

It's understandable why many seniors, not wanting to admit that the summer is indeed drawing to its close, have neglected to pay Victoria for their various Commencement Weekend-related expenses. Graduation is happening next Saturday whether you want it to or not, so accept reality and pony up for your guests' meals and on-campus lodging. Non-seniors are welcome to stay through Commencement, but if you're sticking around and plan to attend the Banquet next Saturday (at no cost), tell Victoria so she can arrange seating for you.

Please Don't Feed the Animals

We accept that there's little you can do to prevent the mosquitoes and deerflies from feeding on your flesh and blood, but giving food to the foxes is not something that can be condoned. Emboldened by the friendly reception they've received in some places around campus, it's only a matter of time before they attempt to sneak into the Dining Hall despite not being on the meal plan, or deplete Middlebury's financial aid budget by enrolling at Bread Loaf and receiving the funds that should rightly go to qualified human applicants.

Trivia Competitors Vent Ire, Declare "Victory!"

After their names did not appear in yesterday's *Crumb* despite coming up with the correct answer, the Alaska Babes in the Woods "sense geographic discrimination, possibly a result of *Crumb*-y jealousy over our deliciously cool temperatures and graduation boat cruise complete with whales and cocktails. We also, once again, protest the non-acceptance of our late submission of Petrarch, resulting from the *Crumb* having been sent in unreadable form. How low, we wonder, can the *Crumb* go?"

Low enough to point out that the above screed was not accompanied by a correct answer to yesterday's question, which concerned the supermarket checkout-line publication upon which Charles Mee likes to draw for material. Only Team Beveridge/Broderon correctly answered "The National Enquirer," putting them one ahead in the summer's competition and sparking a celebration out of all proportion to the relatively inconsequential magnitude of this accomplishment.

Students: Pub List or Perish

The Top Ten Lists (you read that correctly – *lists*) will, of course, be published in tomorrow's *Crumb*. Consider yourselves duly warned, Director's Assistants, Waitstaff, and all other contributory entities; Michael Armstrong, who knows a thing or two about pubs and more than a thing or two about Britain, has already contributed *sixty* ideas for the **Top Ten Names for Bread Loaf's Own British Pub**. The student and staff population's ideas will go toe-to-toe in tomorrow's issue with Michael's solo effort, so everyone else should get their submissions to the *Crumb* quickly to fend off this late-summer professorial charge.

Departure Slip

Fill out and return to the Front Desk

Name: _____

Dorm & Room Number: _____

Departure Date: _____

The All-Top Ten Crumb

The Daily Countdown of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 28

Friday, August 4, 2006

Trivia

Which two authors met at a New Hampshire picnic this weekend in 1850?

Events

FRIDAY

M.Litt. Info Session
2:00, Blue Parlor

New Mexico Info Session
5:00, Barn 2

Educational Publishing Presentation
5:00, Barn 1

Madrigalists 8:00

Big Love 8:30
ride and Prejudice
9:00, Barn

SATURDAY

Charlie Orr 5K
9:30, John's Pond
Madrigalists 8:00

Big Love 8:30
Barn Dance with Bo Bo Denk 11-1

SUNDAY

Blue Parlor 7:30
Golf Scramble 10
Big Love Panel Discussion 5:00
Madrigalists 8:00
Big Love 8:30

Dinner Menu

BBQ beef short ribs or veggie & tofu jambalaya; baklava.

Weather

All Weekend:
Sun and clouds, highs between 75 and 80. Hooray.

Top Five Ways to Obtain Big Love Tix

1. Pay exorbitant service fee and supply/demand markup at Stubhub.com (not recommended).
2. See Front Desk for complimentary tickets (recommended).
3. Wait outside Inn for people to pick up tickets from Front Desk; bludgeon them with copy of *Dombey and Son*; take tickets (highly discouraged).
4. Lurk outside stage door; toss undergarments at entering/exiting Acting Ensemble members; offer favors in exchange for free tickets (unnecessary but not prohibited).
5. Wear "HELLO! MY NAME IS Charles Mee" nametag; hope Michael Cadden doesn't show up and blow your cover.

Top Four Worst Questions to Ask Jim

...at today's informational session about Bread Loaf's New Mexico campus (5:00, Barn 2):

1. Is there a saloon in Santa Fe that will fall silent when I come through the swinging doors and announce my intention to "clean up this town"?
2. Is "margarita" a beverage option at all meals?
3. Is Santa Fe named after *Weekend Update* anchorwoman Tina Fey?
4. Is there, like, work involved?

Hugh Coyle's Top 3 Crumb Innovations

...BL alums Hugh Coyle and Lisa O'Hara, now in the world of educational publishing, will give a brief presentation at 5 this afternoon in Barn 1 on opportunities for teachers to make some extra money by freelancing, test scoring, etc. They'll also answer any questions. Hugh is a former *Crumb* Editor best remembered for these changes:

1. Declined to issue official endorsement in Senior Class President election.
2. Abandoned dated "Town Crier" format of news dissemination upon advent of photocopying.
3. Replaced stock tables with Top Ten lists.

Top 3 Things Folks Think Bo Bo Denk Is

1. The folk/bluegrass band playing at tomorrow night's Barn dance (correct)
2. 6'9" small forward taken by Memphis Grizzlies in second round of NBA draft (incorrect)
3. What Dashiell says when he means "Give me another spoonful of banana" (probably incorrect)

Top 5 Readers at Sunday's Blue Parlor

1. Christie Beveridge
2. Chris Dickerson
3. Shannon Hipp
4. Salman Rushdie (tentative)
5. John Speck

Top Five Secrets of M.Litt. Program

Jim will tell you a lot about Bread Loaf's other degree program today at 2 in the Blue Parlor, but he might not mention these details:

1. At onset of each summer, must renew pledge to speak only English.
2. Must take at least one course from little-known Group VII (Trashy Romance Novels).
3. Waiters will hand you wine list after reciting menu options.
4. Your Commencement regalia is all-Spandex.
5. Must pass comprehensive oral exam on *Ellen* to receive degree.

Top Five Surprises in Remake of *Pride*

...and *Prejudice*, showing tonight at 9 in the Barn.

1. Keira Knightley actually an elaborate computer-generated special effect.
2. Antiquated exchange of "letters" updated to back-and-forth e-mailing between neighborhood bookshop owner Elizabeth Bennett and chain-store executive Fitzwilliam Darcy.
3. Director Joe Wright prompted to "complicate" novel's happy ending after seeing *Big Love*.
4. Cameo appearance by Regis Philbin.
5. Just one nine-hour shot of genial librarian figure in wing chair saying "Now listen carefully, boys and girls," then reading entire book while camera rolls.

Top Three Questions Not Worth Asking at Sunday's Big Love Panel Discussion

...tentatively scheduled for 5:00 in Barn 1 and featuring Alan MacVey, members of the Acting Ensemble, and possibly other resident experts.

1. But what flavor is the cake?
2. Is the cheerleading routine taken directly from Aeschylus?
3. I couldn't help noticing the contrast between the on-stage wedding and my own. Now, my wedding was.... (Not a question, granted, but don't tell me people don't "ask" "questions" like this in your classes.)

Top Three Items Deidre Has Lost

1. Ticonderoga #2 pencil, point dulled (not important)
2. Nickel that rolled beneath vending machine (not important)
3. White SanDisk Memory stick with a few special things on it (papers, poems), left in first Macintosh by the door in the Apple Cellar Wednesday morning (very important, please return to Deidre Cuffee-Gray if found)

Top Three Poetry Readings Next Week

1. *Crumb* Bum's All-Limerick Adaptation of *Ellen* (tie)
2. Paul Muldoon's Poetry Writing Class, 7:30 p.m. Monday, Barn 2.
3. David Huddle's Poetry Writing Class, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Barn 2.

Top 8 Things to Bring to the Inn ASAP

8. Departure slip (to Front Desk)
7. Reenrollment form (to Office)
6. Off-campus housing evaluation form (to Office)
5. Course and campus evaluation (to Office)
4. Commencement guests' meal and lodging costs (to Front Desk)
3. Tranquilizer gun and supply of darts (Ed had too much coffee)
2. Your pants, *on* (because people are starting to talk)
1. Payment for your summer's *Crumb* subscription (this should have been covered in your spring mailing)

Top 3 Signs You're at the Wrong Sporting Event

The Charlie Orr race begins *tomorrow* at 9:30 at John's Pond. The Golf Scramble begins *Sunday* at 10:00 at the Middlebury course. You may have confused the two if:

3. You finish the 18-hole Middlebury course in 32 minutes without hitting a shot, then dive into the pond by the 4th green to celebrate.
2. You complain that your ball is always rolling into the tall grass because Route 125 is far too closely mown for a fairway.
1. You're holding a shot put.

Top 3 Items No Longer in Stock at Bookstore

...and hence not available during next week's 20% Off sale:

3. *Big Love*, The Board Game by Parker Brothers® (sample *...Piero takes you in! Move ahead three spaces" and "W... Night! Turn to the nearest man on your right and kill him")*
2. "Talking Jim Maddox" doll (pull string, recites Joseph Battell origin-myth in entirety)
1. Dr. Newton's Medicinal Elixir for the Enhancement of Mental Faculties (pulled from shelves pending FDA investigation)

Top Three Reasons They Knew Conrad

The AK Babes, Rich Gorham, John Fyler, Chris Benson, Team Pederson/McMillan, and Team Broderson/ Beveridge receive pride of place today for getting yesterday's trivia question right. No clue today, so good luck.

3. Spotted "Victory," lesser-known Conrad novel, in headline.
2. Performed Vulcan mind-meld with *Crumb* Bum.
1. Fortuitously, happened to be writing final paper on "Writers Who Died Suddenly in the Summer of 1924" when question appeared in yesterday's *Crumb*.

Top Two Top Ten Lists

Let the games begin. Perhaps a voice vote at lunch will be required to determine a victor?

Top Ten Names for Bread Loaf's Own British Pub

Michael Armstrong's Top T(w)en(ty):

20. The Mad Ox
19. The Pen and Paper
18. The Barn & Book
17. The Jolly Asher
16. Saints & Sinners
15. The Book on the Brain
14. The Book Worm
13. The Studious Barn
12. The Embattled Pine
11. The Absent Moose
10. Desires Rampant
9. The Queen Emily
8. The Nymph and Nerd
7. The Cherry and Flamingo
6. The Dumb Waiter
5. The Old Bull and Bocce
4. Up the Annex
3. The Edward and Victoria Arms
2. The Huddle and Racket
1. The Lord Jim

Everyone Else's Top T(w)en(ty):

20. The Mad Ox (ALSS)
19. Dare's Clubbhouse (DA)
18. The Canterbury Ales (OX, WS)
17. Stout of Africa (WS)
16. The Wasted Land (WS)
15. The Grope and Giggle (OX)
14. Twelfth Pint, or What you Swill (OX, WS)
13. The Inky Quill (AS)
12. The Pitcher of Dorian Gray (WS)
11. The Larch and Leer (DA)
10. The Hurl (AS)
9. The Wobbly Scholar (OX)
8. The Postcolonialist's Head (ALSS)
7. The Condom and Suds (OXA)
6. The Wife and Alibi (OX)
5. The Hansum Beveridge (DA)
4. Huddle's Cock & Bull (WS)
3. The Iambic Foot (OX)
2. The Conifer and Maiden (OX)
1. The Final Draft (and its seedier cousin, "The Rough Draft") (DA)

Current standings: Director's Assistants (DA) 34; OXymorons (OX) 31; Waitstaff (WS) 26; Stuart Whittle's Crunk Hip (SWCH) 21; Michael Armstrong (MA) 20; Apple Seedlings (AS) 18; Front Desk (FD) 6; Exiles on Main Street (EMS) 4; "GP" (GP) 4; Phoebe Lewis (PL) 3; Off-Campus Exiles (OCE) 3; Kilgore Trout (KT) 2; Anonymous Language School Student (ALSS) 2; Men of Annex (MOA) 2; Team Slobodan Milosevic (TSM) 1; Ileana Jimenez (IJ) 1; Oxford Assistants (OXA) 1; Team John Simon (JS) 1.

Top One Reason to Do Another Top Ten

1. It's fun.
Good enough for me, but with a short week next week, you'll have to get cracking on the **Top Ten Least Recommended Ways to "Bring Bread Loaf Into the Classroom."** Get 'em to the *Crumb* by Wednesday morning for publication in that day's issue, the (sniffle!) last one of the summer.

Departure Slip

Fill out and return to the Front Desk

Name: _____

Dorm & Room Number: _____

Departure Date: _____

The Crumb

Guest Contributors Edition

Volume 87, Number 29

Monday, August 7, 2006

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Trivia | Which literary work's title character bids goodbye, then "sprang into the forest and disappeared"? |
| | Alaska Meeting 5:00, Barn 2 |
| Events | Senior-Faculty Wait Night 6:00, Dining Hall |
| | Kids' Hayride 6:45, Inn |
| | Paul Muldoon's Poetry Class Reading 7:30, Barn 1 |
| | Acting Scenes 8:15, Barn A |
| Dinner Menu | Maple-thyme-balsamic grilled chicken or tomato & grilled zucchini napoleons; creamed corn, roasted pepper and jalapeno risotto; mustard crumbled green beans. |
| | |
| Weather | It had begun to rain again. Yes, the news-paper was right, for once: rain was scattered all over Vermont. It would eventually fall on every part of the dark mountain woods and, farther westward into the dark waves of Champlain. His soul swooned as he heard the rain falling faintly upon all the living and the dead. But then he realized it would be sunnier tomorrow, and he was happier. |
| | |

Feeling the Call of the Wild? by Jack London

Buck was neither house-dog nor kennel dog, but dog he was, and as a dog, Buck did not read the newspapers, or he would have known that a meeting about Alaska was scheduled for 5 today in Barn 2. Because men and women, studying in the Vermont mountains, wanted to hear Jim talk about the Alaska campus, and because steamship and transportation companies would take them there, dozens of students were planning to rush into the Northland. These sometimes wanted dogs, but Bread Loaf did not allow dogs, so Buck lay down and waited for a better storyline in which to become involved.

Poetry Reading by Emily Dickinson

A group of Readers congregate

To read – their Poetry

The class of Paul Muldoon to-night,

And David's class – Tuesday

Tonight – in Barn 1 – half-past Seven –

Tomorrow – in Barn Two –

At eight-fifteen; Will you not come

To hear their merry Show?

Hayride News by Mark Twain

CHILDREN wanting to take a hayride around the meadows will be loaded onto Leo's tractor at quarter-to-seven tonight in front of the Inn; adults with tiny children who need to come along will be permitted; all other persons attempting to board the vehicle will be shoved off. BY ORDER OF THE CARETAKER, Per J.M., Chief of Ordnance.

Nothing This Good Can Stay by Robert Frost

Chris Brady's syrup is gold,

His hardest hue to hold.

He's got plenty to sell, he says;

In the Library for a few days.

Miss it – its stay's all too brief –

And Bread Loafers sink to grief,

So syrupless home make their way.

Nothing gold can stay.

Sunglasses by William Carlos Williams

so much depends

upon

Tina Roesse

finding

her black and white

Ralph Lauren prescription sun-glasses

with a zebra pattern

on the temple eye-piece

leave them at the Inn

or contact her on

Bread

Net.

Acting Workshop by Benjamin Franklin

Having finished my final paper, it was about this time I conceived the bold and arduous project of arriving at perfect attendance. I wished to see all events that either natural inclination, custom, or friends in Carol MacVey's Acting Workshop class might lead me into. The precept of Order requiring that every part of my business should have its allotted time, one page in my little book contained the following scheme of employment for the evening of this Monday.

Collected Stories by Donald Margulies (Christine Bateman & Michele Stepto); The Dance & The RR by David Henry Hwang (Nathan Johnson & Andrew Bennett); Hannah & Martin by Kate Fodor (Barry Mothes & Jennifer Miers); Criminal Hearts by Jane Martin (Nicole Champagne & Renee Lewin); Three Days of Rain by Richard Greenberg (Dan Calloway & Drake Baer); Life and Limb by Keith Reddin (John Speek & Jane Shamaeva).

Charlie Orr by Vladimir Nabokov

Charlie Orr, race of my life, fire in my quads. My sprint, my soul. Char. Lee. Orr.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, exhibit number one is Dave Emory and Kelly Fullerton, the winners, the lightning-quick, whom the simple walkers watched fly by and even the noble-winged seraphs could not catch. Look at their times outside the Dining Hall.

from Alice's Adventures Under the Annex

by Lewis Carroll, Sunday "Kids' Korner" Page Editor

Alice wandered through the small green door at the back of the Annex and was greeted by a very strange sight indeed. The Mad Hatter's hat had no top. The plates had a neat fifth sliced out of them, as though someone had helped himself to a large piece of cake and sliced away cake and china alike. The tea had spilled all over the table, as the teapot had lost its bottom fifth.

"Come shop!" they all shouted. "We've taken 20% off everything!" "Why not pick up a copy of The Merry Wives of?" the Mad Hatter suggested. "Or we have plenty of copies of For Whom the Bell, or The Sound and the."

Alice selected a copy of Atonement to read in her spare time. She presented it to the March Hare, who was behind the cash register. He took the book from her, examined it closely, and then suddenly ripped out the last 57 pages.

"You can't do that!" Alice told the March Hare. "I bought that book to read all of it! Now I won't know how it ends!"

"But I was told to take 20% off of everything," the Hare reasoned. "So you were," replied the Hatter. "I'm – let's see, I'm – 80 percent sure of it," the Hare boasted. "What an impertinent girl you are!"

"Off with 20% of her head!" the Red Queen roared.

"Fiddlesticks!" Alice snapped back. And, picking up her discounted wares, she headed for the door.

Obligations for Senior Citizens by Arthur Miller

HAPPY: Pop, I'll tell you what we'll do. We'll have a big blowout – just you and me and Biff and the Seniors and their families –

WILLY: Oh, boy! Now, that is a *million-dollar* idea!

BIFF: No expense spared, Pop. **Shrimp and champagne** – because nothing's too good for you! **Wednesday, Pop! Five o'clock sharp.**

WILLY: I can taste those shrimps right now! But listen, boys, we can't have it *here*, not with your mother pinching every penny. Are you sure – HAPPY: Sure, sure, Jim Maddox said we could have it at his house, **Earthworm Manor!**

WILLY: Stop interrupting! A man can't get a – get a full sentence out anymore! Attention must be paid! Now, I'm sure I don't need to tell you this, boys, but – you're sure **everything's paid for? Banquet fees, rooms for guests, that sort of thing?**

BIFF: Pop, it is one-hundred-percent taken care of. Just like you told me once – "Pay your bills now, and they'll remember your name later."

WILLY: That is a true thing right there, boys. Always did say that, heh? Well, attention to detail can absolutely *make* a man, and – You know what, Biff, Hap? Let's take the Chevrolet! To the reception!

HAPPY: We could walk, Pop. Air would do you good!

WILLY: No, no, gotta be the Chevrolet! And when Jim sees us pull up, and the two of you get out – and one of you should come over and open my door for me – why, he'll offer you a job on the spot! On the spot!

BIFF: Yeah, about that, Pop...

Fill Out the – You Know, the *Forms* by David Mamet

Listen, if you wanna – I'm gonna tell you, just wait – I mean if you wanna come back – back here, that is, back to *Bread Loaf* next summer, dammit – any campus, *any* campus – anyway if you want that you gotta fill out a form – a form, for Chrissake – a reapplication form, is what it's called. So you get the form, and – that's, no, wait, I'm about to *tell* you where, just lemme finish – they're outside the Office – so you get the form and fill it out and return to Elaine. *Elaine*. Sure, you know Elaine. Right. And if you want a transcript – an *official* transcript, I'm talkin' honest-to-God real, you know? You've got to fill out a request form for it, and they're – mmm-hmm – they're – right, they're in the same place. But listen – no, what I'm telling you is, is – I'm telling you there's *more*, OK? Right. Just fill out that evaluation form, so's we know – just so we know how the summer went and everything. I don't know, like your classes. And all the rest – it's important. Just fill it out. No, you don't have to add your name, it's anon- it's – right, you got it. OK, then.

Ed Brown's Slide Show by F. Scott Fitzgerald

On **Tuesday night at 9:15**, I went over to that huge incoherent structure of a barn for **Ed Brown's slide show**. Most of the big dorms were closing up now and as the moon rose higher, and Ed turned on his digital projector, the inessential houses began to melt away until gradually I became aware of the campus here that flowered this summer for all scholars' eyes. Its trees, its sunsets, its teacher conferences, its Barn dances, its Adirondack chairs, hundreds of snapshots had once pandered in whispers to the last and greatest of all human dreams; for a transitory enchanted six weeks man must have held his breath in the presence of this place, compelled into an aesthetic contemplation he both understood and desired, face to face for the last time in literature with something commensurate to his capacity for wonder. And as I sat there looking at snapshots of the old world, I thought of our wonder when we first picked out this green place at the end of the Ripton hill. We had come a long way to this blue lawn, and our brilliant paper idea seemed so close that we could hardly fail to grasp it. It eluded us then, but that's no matter—next year we will type faster, stretch out our minds farther. . . And one fine morning—

So we watched on, slides against the Barn wall, borne back ceaselessly into the past.

Farewell Dinner by A.A. Milne

"Owl," said Christopher Robin, "I am going to give a party. And it's to be a special sort of party, because it's because everyone is leaving."

"That kind of party is called a **Farewell Dinner**," said Owl and flew off to tell everyone.

Pooh did not know what a Farewell Dinner was, exactly, but he *certainly* knew what a Dinner was – something he liked very much indeed – and so volunteered to bring one of his very Best pots of honey. Piglet, being a Very Small Creature Indeed, said he would come if Owl would provide a Cushion for him. Eeyore accepted, but grumbled, "**Jim will say his Thank-yous and his Good-byes, and everyone will be sad**, and I have lost my Tale again."

"But, Eeyore," Owl pointed out, "you turned in your Tale to your Fiction Writing teacher yesterday."

"I suppose I did," said Eeyore, "but what I meant was, I think I lost control of the narrative arc of my Tale and sent it spiraling into excessive dependence on descriptive characterization."

"Oh," said Owl, not having anything but "Oh" to say.

So when the day of the Dinner arrived – it was a **Tuesday** – Pooh took one of his very Best pots of honey and started off for the Dining Hall. But the walk was long and the stomach of a Pooh Bear grumbles loudly, and before he knew what he had done, the honey-pot was Empty. "Oh, bother," said Pooh. But he need not have worried, because a great Feast had already been prepared, and Tigger and Roo both agreed that Pooh's empty honey pot was an apt Metaphor for the summer, since it was very Sweet but now almost entirely Gone.

The Love Song of J. Alfred Proofread by T.S. Eliot

Let us go then, you and I,

While our papers are spread out before the eyes
Of our professors like patients etherized upon tables,

Let us go, to certain **Inn Front Desks for stamps**

And, muttering, re-tramp

Next door for **Bookstore-envelopes**

To send professors in the hopes

That they will send our papers back to us

Without a fuss.

Oh, do not ask, "Why is this?"

Let us go and make our visits.

3 Ways of Looking at a Right Answer by Wallace Stevens

When Hawthorne and Melville met at a picnic,

They knew each other by reputation.

They did not know they were the right answer.

Pausing among nine colored balls

The Bocce Lobby delivers the correct answer.

Kurt Broderson and Christie Beveridge

Are one team.

Kurt Broderson and Christie Beveridge and the right answer

Are one team.

To the Schoolhouse by Virginia Woolf

"Yes, of course, if they're in by Wednesday," said the *Crumb* Bum. "But you'll have to work on them hard."

To the Director's Assistants these words conveyed an extraordinary joy, as if it were settled, the list of the **Top Ten LEAST Recommended Ways to "Bring Bread Loaf Into the Classroom"** bound to appear in Wednesday's *Crumb*, and the victory to which they had looked forward, for years and years it seemed, was, after two days' work, within touch.

"But," said the second-place OXymorons, who continued to submit their own ideas, "yours won't be fine."

Had there been an ax handy, or a poker, or any weapons that would have killed the OXymorons there and then and guaranteed the Director's Assistants victory, they would have seized them. Such were the extremes of emotion the Top Ten list incited.

Departure Slip - return to the Front Desk

Name: _____

And don't forget

Room: _____

to leave tips for waiters

Departure Date: _____

and housekeepers!!!

The Crumb Final Exam

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 30

Tuesday, August 8, 2006

Quotable

"Finished, it's finished, nearly finished, it must be nearly finished."
-Beckett, Endgame

Events

Cap & Gown Pickup 1:30-2:30,
Bookstore

Asheville Q&A
5:00, Barn 2

Farewell Dinner
6:00, Dining Hall

Soccer 7:00

Huddle Poetry Writing Class
Reading 8:00,
Barn 2

Slide Show
9:15, Barn

Karaoke
Later, Angela's

Dinner Menu

Italian stuffed flank steak or vegetable & tofu puttanesca; Caesar salad; cherry pie for dessert.

Weather

Today:
Partly cloudy and chilly at night, 71/49 (!).

Tomorrow:
Mostly sunny, high chance of showers, 75/54.

Thursday:
Thundershowers, 72/49.

About the Final Exam

You have until the end of lunch to complete this test, the results of which will be taken into consideration when processing your reapplication request. Please use a #2 pencil only. Do all of your work on this sheet. Keep your eyes on your own paper. When you have finished, give your paper to the *Crumb Bum*, who will recycle it without so much as a glance.

I. Asheville True/False

Directions: Attend today's informational meeting about the Asheville campus at 5 in Barn 2. Mark the following statements about Bread Loaf North Carolina as True (T) or False (F).

- _____ Campus publication called "The Biscuit"
- _____ Asheville noted for cultural/artistic offerings
- _____ Guaranteed Southern accent in six weeks or your money back
- _____ Entire course devoted to learning how to spell last name of Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski
- _____ Nestled in the scenic Smoky Mountains
- _____ Gilmore conveniently located equidistant from Vermont and NC campuses, enabling residents to take classes on either campus
- _____ Southern literature a focus of curriculum

II. Huddle Class Matching

Directions: Attend the reading by members of David Huddle's Poetry Writing Workshop tonight at 8 p.m. in Barn 2. Next to the name each reader listed below, write down the canonical poet they most resemble (stylistically, physically, or otherwise):

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Brenda Clark | Mark McCaig |
| Tina DelSignore | Barry Mothes |
| Christopher Dickinson | Noam Osband |
| Jamie Foley | Will Porter |
| David Huddle | MacNair Randall |
| Sarah Kauffman | Thomas Truelove |
| Matt Kostik | Vanessa Waltz |
| Patrick Martin | |

III. Farewell Dinner Facts

Directions: Cross out all names and phrases Jim is **not** likely to incorporate into his closing remarks at tonight's Farewell Dinner (6 p.m., Dining Hall).

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| Ellen | Elaine | Big Love |
| Monster truck | Middlebury | "my peeps" |
| Kevin Federline | Chef Jim Logan | Chia Pet ® |
| Robert Frost | "mental midgets" | Velveeta |

IV. Tips

Directions: Use handy "Tip Calculator" below to figure out appropriate amount of generous donation to Waitstaff and Housekeeping for their summer's assistance:

| Service | Value | 15% of Value |
|------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Food delivery/disposal | Immense | Fairly significant |
| Providing coffee | Infinite | Likewise infinite |
| Cleaning dorms, etc. | Priceless | Incalculable |

V. Slide Show

Directions: First, attend Ed Brown's annual Summer Slide Show at 9:15 in the Barn. Then, respond to one shot or a series of shots from the show with an original work in one of the following creative forms:

- A) Series of terza rima haiku, a la "News Headlines from the Homer Noble Farm"
- B) Carved fruit, a la "Jack-O-Melon" on Cherry porch
- C) Interpretive dance entitled "The Gamboling Fox," to be performed at Friday's Senior Prom

VI. To-Do List Identification

Directions: Identify **where** you should go to complete each of the following necessary tasks. Write "FD" for Front Desk, "O" for Office, or "N" for Not At All Necessary.

1. Return reapplication form to Elaine Lathrop
2. Pay Victoria Brown for Commencement expenses
3. Complain that course books have "too many big words"
4. Return departure slips (hint: envelope is hanging at Front Desk)
5. Pick up copies of all-school photo or other group shots ordered earlier from Ed Brown
6. Ask how to get your copy of *The Collected Poems of Robert Frost* signed by the author

VII. Library Fill-in-the-Blank

Directions: Return all Middlebury-owned texts to the cart in Davison before you leave. Then circle the word that best completes the following titles:

1. _____ *Early Modernist Poetry*
 - a) *Studies in*
 - b) *World War I and*
 - c) *How to Sound Like You Know Something About*
2. *Images of the Erotic in _____: A Comparative Study*
 - a) *Spenser and Ovid*
 - b) *Larch and Gilmore*
 - c) *D.H. Lawrence and My Sucky Life*
3. *Paradise Found: _____*
 - a) *Redemptive Sin in Milton's Poetic Works*
 - b) *There Is One More Beer in the Cooler!*
 - c) *Vaguely Literary Pick-Up Lines that Just Might Work, but Only at Bread Loaf*

VIII. Senior Reception Multiple Choice

Directions (Seniors Only): Attend tomorrow afternoon's Director's Reception (5 p.m., Earthworm Manor). Gorge yourself on complimentary shrimp and champagne. Given the sophistication of the fare and the momentousness of the occasion, what outfit best constitutes "appropriate attire"?

- a) Tattered but treasured "Part of the Flock" T-shirt from Flock of Seagulls' whirlwind 1983 world tour
- b) Mark Elberfeld's bow-tie & boxer combo from Suppressed Desires
- c) Tommy Hilfiger's new "Lobsterman's Collection," featuring "Authentic Dock Odor"
- d) None of the above; simply dress nicely

IX. Syrup Short Answer

Directions: Purchase bottles of Chris Brady's incomparable Ghyll-Fen Farm maple syrup (available in the Library today and tomorrow). Compare and contrast the golden nectar he'll sell you with Log Cabin® or Mrs. Butterworth's® brand "syrops," using one of the following dualities as the crux of your argument: sublime/inedible, Vermont in liquid form/discarded motor oil, friendly librarian/corporate scum, Vermont maple tree/processing plant in Secaucus.

X. Karaoke Fill-Ins

Directions: Fill in the blank to the right of each song title below with the name of the student or faculty member most likely to perform that song at tonight's Karaoke get-together at Angela's Pub in Middlebury. One example is provided.

"Laffy Taffy" _____ David Huddle
"Bust a Move" _____
"These Boots Were Made for Walkin'" _____
"My Heart Will Go On" _____

XI. Cash-For-Books Calculations

Directions: Exchange any unwanted course texts for cash in the Bookstore this afternoon (1:30-2:30) or tomorrow (8:30-12:30, 1:30-2:30). Indicate what percentage of the total funds thus generated you will direct toward the following endeavors:

_____ % towards winning large pink stuffed armadillo for highest Whack-a-Mole score at Addison County Field Days
_____ % towards one-time splurge of *rainbow sprinkles* on Cree-Mee
_____ % towards bribe for Ed so Slide Show doesn't include image that might prove compromising for you or any of the other lucky folks involved
_____ % towards Bread Loaf paraphernalia that will elicit quizzical looks from uninformed people in the "real world"

XII. Senior Gift Word Problem

Directions: Calculate the amount you can afford to contribute to the Senior Class Gift. Then select the option below that best describes your emotional state, factor in changes to your original figure, and submit payment in that final amount to Shannon Hipp.

- A) Inevitable end-of-summer nostalgia: Add 35% to original figure
- B) Recognition that you're a cheapskate/ingrate: Add 75% to original figure
- C) Fear that inadequate final paper will necessitate "alternate strategy" for convincing administration to let you graduate after all: Add \$50,000 to original figure

XIII. Lost Items Free Response

Jean Hanff Korelitz has misplaced her favorite black fleece. It has a zip-up front and no logo, and she'd be extremely grateful to get it back. Also, Tamar Paull lost her orange & blue notebook with a gold elephant and a fuzzy person on the front; as it holds all the wisdom Andrea Lunsford and Michael Armstrong imparted to her this summer, she would very much like to see it again.

Directions: Choose either of these items and write a concise but thorough essay addressing the following questions. *Where do you think the item is? Have you looked there? Well, why not? Do you think the item in question will just get up and walk its way back to its rightful owner? Are you too lazy to help find it? How can you live with yourself?*

XIV. Blue Parlor Matching

Directions: Match the Blue Parlor reader from this past Sunday with the works he or she read.

- 1) Christopher Dickinson
- 2) John Speck
- 3) Shannon Hipp
- 4) Anne Tommaso
- a) Christopher Dickinson's poems "Under a Blue Blanket of Stars," "Satori Not," and "Kun Ding"
- b) John Speck's memoir "The Potential Pitfalls of Bad Poetry"
- c) Shannon Hipp's personal essays "Conception" and "Writer"
- d) Anne Tommaso's "The Fact that She is a Woman," "Elegy for Sylvia," "If Vermont was a Woman," "Without Answer"

Extra Credit: Find Vanessa Waltz or Deidre Cuffee-Gray if you're returning to Vermont next summer and would like to coordinate the Blue Parlor readings.

Extra Extra Credit: Pay off-season recruiting visits to homes of prospective readers for summer 2007; sign lucrative sponsorship deal for what will henceforth be known as "Blue Parlor Readings, presented by Doritos®"; install stadium seating in Blue Parlor.

XV. Airport Ride Algebra

Directions: Calculate, to the nearest dollar, the savings or profit of each of the following courses of action:

- a) Giving Christopher Dickinson a ride to the Burlington airport in time for his 8:45 flight on Friday morning; getting reimbursed for gas expenses.
- b) Sharing your cab or other transport to the airport Friday morning or Thursday night with Christopher; splitting cost of ride.
- c) Taking Christopher to airport; using proceeds to corner insect-repellent market next summer; selling hoarded copies of *Deep Woods Off* at exorbitant markup to desperate students.

XVI. Cap and Gown "Outside the Box" Thinking

Directions (Seniors Only): Pick up Commencement paraphernalia from Bookstore this afternoon (1:30-2:30) or tomorrow (8:30-12:30, 1:30-2:30). In a brief essay or artistic representation, devise **other** creative and potentially provocative ways/places to wear cap, gown, hood, and/or tassel.

XVII. Trivia Task

Directions: Fall prostrate before Kurt Broderson and Christie Beveridge; salute the pair as "Trivia Gods of All They Survey." Note that they were the *only* ones who knew that **Ellen** was the character who "sprang into the forest and disappeared." No points will be awarded for correctly identifying the source of today's Quotable, as the author and work are clearly indicated, you moron.

Extra Credit: Find scanned images of entire text of *Ellen*, reportedly available online. Write one-page essay responding to obvious question: *Why? WHY??*

XVIII. Top 10 Take-Home Portion of Exam

Directions: Use new swaths of stress-free time to devise responses for the **Top Ten Least Advisable Ways to "Bring Bread Loaf Into the Classroom."** Submit litany of hilariously inappropriate outcomes of such poor decision-making to the *Crumb* by 10 a.m. tomorrow.

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 31

Wednesday, August 9, 2006

Quotable

"This writing business. Pencils and what-not. Over-rated, if you ask me. Silly stuff. Nothing in it."
-Eeyore

Events

Graduation Regalia Pickup
8:30-12:30,
1:30-2:30,
Bookstore

A Midsummer Night's Dream
2:00, starting at tennis courts

Senior Reception
5:00, Earthworm

Slide Show
8:15 & 9:15, Barn

Dinner Menu

Smoky maple roast pork with fingerling potatoes or sweet potato polenta; squash w/ confetti peppers; toll house pie.

Weather

Today:
Mostly sunny,
76/52.

Tomorrow:
Thundershowers,
71/48.

Commencement:
Partly cloudy,
69/47.

Final Acts

Alan MacVey's Page to Stage class will present a staged reading of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* today at 2:00. The performance begins near the tennis courts and proceeds to the glen to the west of Barn A. Feel free to come for a scene or the whole show.

Good Buy

Today is the last day of the Bookstore's 20% off sale. The doors will be open from 1:30-2:30 today so seniors can pay for graduation regalia and last-minute shoppers can snap up the remaining bargain items. It remains a mystery to the *Crumb* Bum why Bread Loafers, who claim to be "intellectuals," strip the shelves of David Huddle's Contemporary American Short Story texts but pass over Milton's *Complete Poems and Major Prose*, a pleasure-reading potboiler for bedtime if ever there was one.

Hors d'Over

The Class of 2006 is invited to Earthworm Manor this afternoon at 5 for a shrimp and champagne reception hosted by Jim Maddox in honor of your summer's hard work and the culmination of your Bread Loaf careers. Seniors should bear in mind that their professors are, in many cases, still grading papers and writing comments; you have every right to be heady with joy at having finished writing, but now is *not* the time to brag about how you were blind drunk when you wrote the last six pages of your *Mill on the Floss* essay or to tell your professor that honestly, you found his or her latest book "as loud and unpleasantly aromatic a burst of intellectual flatulence as has ever been inflicted upon me."

One Last Paper to Turn In

The *Crumb* can understand that some people, wanting to wait until the very last minute to ensure a thorough and comprehensive review of the summer, still haven't turned in their campus evaluation forms. But why, the *Crumb* wonders, why have many of these same people not yet turned in their reapplication forms? Yes, many are seniors and will not be returning, and yes, many are not sure whether they want to continue, but woe betide those who *do* intend to come back but, out of forgetfulness or post-traumatic paper stress, have not secured a spot on the campus of their choice. Get the form to Elaine, or pick up another copy from her if yours is probably buried somewhere in the mound of secondary sources that still towers over your desk.

Van Go, Van Gone

Today's downtown van run is the last shuttle of the summer. Sign up, as always, at the Front Desk. If you don't have a car, today may be your best chance to get your state-mandated annual cree-mee, which after today will cost you around \$31 once you factor in cab fare down and back up the mountain.

Give Up

The conundrum in which the Waitstaff finds itself can be rendered thusly: So polite that they would never dream of asking the community directly to tip them generously for their summer's work, yet so polite and attentive to our dining needs that they, as much as anyone else on campus, deserve the generosity they would never baldly request.

The housekeepers also deserve our thanks, and not just in verbal form, for their help all over the campus. The Front Desk will collect and distribute tips for both groups, so before you go, calculate just how much six weeks of a cleaning crew and 90 or so full-service meals are worth to you and cough up an appropriately princely sum.

Capping It Off

Seniors should pick up their graduation regalia in the Bookstore this afternoon from 1:30-2:30. After that, remaining caps and gowns will be distributed at the Front Desk, but there they can only accept cash or checks. This year's rental fee is \$40.92 (including tax).

Shut Down

As the days dwindle down to a precious few, so do the Apple Cellar hours. Business as usual today, but plan around tomorrow's early closing (9 p.m.), Friday's truncated hours (9-11 a.m., 2-4 p.m.), and Saturday's last gasp (9-11 a.m.). And while you're down there, pay up for all that printing you know you did over the summer.

The Last Drop

Once you've had librarian Chris Brady's magical maple syrup, you'll never go back to store-bought; you may, in fact, have to adopt the Kramerian strategy of smuggling your own bottle of Grade A Medium Amber into your favorite breakfast place to avoid subjecting your palate to the indignity of an inferior product. Although addictive, high levels of syrup in workplace drug-testing samples do not generally arouse suspicion or instigate disciplinary action, and at only \$5 a bottle, it's the cheapest fix you'll ever find.

Last Rites

If you're planning to stick around through the weekend, you might want to plan your trip to Burlington or the Addison County Field Days (see below) or the Ben & Jerry's factory around the remaining scheduled events: the Senior "Prom" on Friday night from 9-12, the Commencement Picnic on Saturday at noon, the Commencement Banquet (to which all students, not just seniors, are invited) at 6 that night, and the Commencement ceremony at 8:30 in the Little Theater. Sunday breakfast will be the last meal offered, and the mountain will push everyone off of its knees by noon that day.

Missouri Loves Company

Augustine writes, "Please let everyone know that if they ever happen to find themselves in Saint Louis, they are welcome to stay with the monks of Saint Louis Abbey. I'm the Guestmaster, so all they have to do is email me or call me up: fraugustine@priory.org or 314.434.2557x392. We never accept 'donations' from guests, so that's just one more reason to come (although, after five days, we do tend to put you to work in the gardens)."

Last Shot

Ed will present the end-of-summer slide show again tonight at 8:15 and 9:15 in the Barn. If you'd like to purchase prints of individual shots for keepsakes or gifts, he can send you copies of any of the photos for a reasonable price. See him at the Front Desk to place an order.

Last Dance

There'll be one final Barn dance on Friday from 9-12. Bread Loaf tradition dictates that this dance is called the Senior Prom, and while certain Prom traditions will be upheld (show up to find out), rest assured that there is absolutely no need to scramble for that perfect chiffon number, or for you and six of your friends to tumble out of a stretch Humvee rented especially for the occasion. Furthermore, Jim and Lucy pledge that they will not circulate among the dancers, checking for suspiciously alcoholic breath and separating inappropriately intimate couples.

Fair Well

The 58th Addison County Fair & Field Days are well underway and run through Saturday. Carnival rides, good food, 4-H and open class animal shows, demo derbies, tractor pulling, live bands, kids' activities, special demonstrations, and many, many exhibits – all for an entry fee of only \$8 a person (\$9 on Saturday). On Thursday evening and Friday afternoon, \$15 gets you in and aboard all the carnival rides you care to ride. The fair is located on Route 17 between New Haven Junction and Addison Four Corners; check out addisoncountryfielddays.com for more info.

Student Would Like to Wrap Up

Rachel Jamison has misplaced her black EMS all-weather jacket (a women's small) somewhere on campus. She's looked everywhere she thinks it might be, to no avail. If you locate it, or Jean Hanff Korelitz's black no-logo zip-up fleece, please hand it over to the Front Desk for immediate return to its rightful owner.

All That Lives Must Dine

Tonight's dinner will be the final waited meal until Saturday's Commencement Banquet; normal weekend meal hours (8-8:45, 12:30-1:15, 6-6:45) commence with break tomorrow.

Jon Done

One more *Crumb* will appear tomorrow morning, but after that it's "So long, *Crumb* bum." Thanks to all who helped sustain the trivia contest and Top Ten lists, to the entire community for their attentive and enthusiastic readership, and to the tireless workers at the pun factory, who now get a well-deserved two-week vacation before we start gathering material for the headlines of 2007.

Final Countdown

No Michael Armstrong in this week's Top Ten list; having ably demonstrated to the campus last week the absolute domination of which he is capable, should he only put his mind to it, he graciously cedes the playing field to the Oxonians, the Waitstaff, Carol MacVey, and the champion Director's Assistants, who present to you the

Top T(w)en(ty) Least Advised Ways of "Bringing Bread Loaf Into the Classroom"

20. Rather than assigning vocab quizzes, you assign Top Ten lists. (OX)
19. Tell your school you want to plan a "Suppressed Desires" dance. (OX, DA, WS)
18. Send a letter to students announcing that they now need to complete their reading before school starts. (WS)
17. Keep telling your colleagues, "But that's not the way Dixie does it." (DA)
16. Deliver class lecture from imposing wicker throne. (DA)
15. Announce to your headmaster that the fall play will be about a bedwetting boy who discovers poetry. (WS)
14. Grumble in cafeteria line about lack of barley risotto cakes with spicy apricot glaze. (DA)
13. Steal Adirondack chairs from Bread Loaf lawn; substitute for classroom desks. (DA)
12. Because you love her so much, you kidnap Isabel Armstrong and bring her for show-and-tell. (OX)
11. Insist that, after all that work you did on *Ulysses*, you're relatively certain 9th graders can handle it. (OX)
10. Sprinkle your class lectures on *I Am the Cheese* with words like "postmodern" and "deconstructionist." (DA)
9. "I'm the Head Dorm Parent. I can call this dorm 'Gilmore' if I want to." (OX)
8. Offer Arthur Little's "Sex and the City" as senior elective. (OX)
7. Pretend you're a member of the Acting Ensemble. (CM)
6. Invite David Huddle to read to your middle schoolers. (DA)
5. Offer "genitalia" as a prompt for poetry writing. (WS)
4. Put a garbage bag full of condoms in your dorm's laundry room. (OX)
3. Keep repeating, "One time, at English camp...." (DA)
2. Tell your students *all* your stories from the past six weeks. (WS)
1. Begin first day of class, "One summer day, in the 1860s, a young man named Joseph Battell...." (DA)

The Crumb

The Daily Bulletin of the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont

Volume 87, Number 32

Thursday, August 10, 2006

Quotable

*"The woods are lovely,
dark, and deep,
But I have promises to
keep,
And miles to go before I
sleep,
And miles to go before I
sleep."*

-Robert Frost

Events

Friday

Senior Prom 9-12

Saturday

Picnic 12:30

Banquet 6:00

Commencement
8:30, Theater

Closing Reception
Afterwards, Barn

Many years had passed since Ellen had last visited the old Pine, but from his vantage point, high on the mountain, he could still see, each summer, the stirrings among the yellow and green buildings below. Ellen, he knew, was no longer among the people assembled there, nor had she been for many years. The old Pine had grieved when first a summer passed without her ascending to his perch on the hillside, but that was long ago, and now he remembered her wistfully but without sadness, taking solace in the words she had once taught him, that "all flesh is as grass." If all flesh were indeed grass, he reasoned, then were not she and he, still and forevermore, one?

It gladdened him, too, to see that to the place where once the lovely Ellen had walked now came hundreds of gentlemen and ladies, youthful in mind, certainly, and in spirit, if not all in body – congregating in that green place during the summer months. When the wind was southerly, the old Pine still caught faint strains of their conversations. "They no longer discuss magnetism, or undulatory theory, as I did with Ellen," he mused, "and yet their *intent* – the pursuit of knowledge – is essentially the same. And that," he decided, "is good." Each summer he observed the figures below learn, and laugh, and love, and each summer, the old Pine laughed with them, and loved them back.

Now they were beginning to disperse once again, a sad but inevitable occurrence, and the old Pine, watching them depart one by one, wished them safe travels and sent a gentle rustle through his branches and the branches of the trees below that said, inasmuch as such things can be put into words, "You are all always welcome here; you are all my children." And, having thus blessed with his kind thoughts his summer guests in this, his domain, the old Pine settled his limbs and awaited their return.

The End